

Somali negotiator says talks fail

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Somalia's rival warlords, dashing hopes of peace for their stricken country, have failed to find common ground to meet face-to-face and will return home on Sunday, a senior negotiator said Saturday. "We were unable to agree. We are leaving for home Sunday," said Mohamed Qayare Afrah, chairman of the United Somali Congress (USC). The congress is allied to warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammed, who controls part of the Somali capital, Mogadishu. His bitter rival is Mohammad Farah Aidid, whose militia controls another swathe of territory. Talks in the Ethiopian capital have focused since last week on trying to get Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aidid to meet face-to-face. "Aidid wanted to review and amend some of the articles in last month's Addis Ababa (peace) accord, but we felt that there was no need to fiddle with it," Mr. Afrah. He said the accord was an outcome of consensus of the Somali people and no one had the right to change it. Gen. Aidid's group was expected to give its own version on Sunday of the obstacles to holding face-to-face talks.



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Majali in Tokyo

TOKYO (AFP) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali arrived here Saturday for an eight-day visit, officials said. The main purpose of his Japan visit is to attend a board meeting of the Tokyo-headquartered United Nations University. While in Tokyo, the prime minister, who is also foreign and defence minister, will meet Japan's Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa (Trade with Malaysia, see page 3).

Hekmatyar transfers powers to deputy

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's hardline Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has transferred his state powers to his deputy in the Hezb-e-Islami party, Qazi Amin Waqad, the official Kabul Radio reported on Saturday. President Burhanuddin Rabbani had approved Mr. Hekmatyar's action, the radio said. It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Hekmatyar had resigned from the post he took up this year.

Men attack weekly's offices in Sanaa

SANA (AFP) — unidentified gunmen Saturday riddled the offices of a newspaper here with bullets; after it had published details of an alleged plot to kill Yemen's Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedi, reporters said. The attack caused material damage, but no casualties were reported. The weekly *Sawt Al Ummal*, organ of the country's trade unions and close to Mr. Beedi's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), said "senior officials" in Sanaa were thought to have offered a \$7.2 million reward for the assassination of Al Beedi.

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli officials said yesterday they expected progress to be made in resolving outstanding differences over Palestinian autonomy at a key meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman (PLO) Yasser Arafat in Cairo today.

However, unrest in the occupied territories threatened to disrupt implementation of the Sept. 13 Israeli-PLO accord, under which Israel is to start pulling troops out of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho on Monday.

The two old enemies would then be able to tell their increasingly sceptical peoples that despite the legacy of a century of conflict, they are sticking to the timetable for Palestinian self-rule set in their Sept. 13 peace accord.

The meeting between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat "shows that compromises were reached on most of the questions under dispute," the minister said on Israeli radio.

Israeli Ambassador to Egypt David Sultan said the meeting would contribute to "the removal of the obstacles blocking implementation of the autonomy accord."

Mr. Rabin would meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday before his talks with Mr. Arafat, which are due to start at around 4:00 p.m. (1400 GMT) at the possible two-week delay in implementation. Mr. Arafat has said the deadline is sacred.

The Palestinians have complained that Israel is offering a troop redeployment rather than a withdrawal.

The negotiations in Egypt have also stalled over the size of the Jericho district, the issue of Palestinian prisoner releases, security for Jewish settlements and control over crossing points with neighbouring Egypt and Jordan.

If Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat can compromise on the three big issues blocking the peace talks, it might be possible for Israel to make at least a symbolic gesture on the ground in Gaza and Jericho Monday.

The two old enemies would then be able to tell their increasingly sceptical peoples that despite the legacy of a century of conflict, they are sticking to the timetable for Palestinian self-rule set in their Sept. 13 peace accord.

Challenged on this recently, one of the negotiators exclaimed with a broad grin: "Long live posturing."

Some Israelis have been arguing that the size of the Jericho area should not be an issue, since Israeli troops will withdraw from all Palestinian towns and villages by the middle of next July and the Palestinian self-government will control the whole West Bank, the boundaries of "Jericho" will be academic.

The Palestinian answer, of course, is that if the size of the area is not an issue, Israel should concede the full 370 square kilometres the PLO is demanding.

It also condemned the killing of three Arabs by settlers in the West Bank on Friday.

"This escalation... seriously threatens the peace process and confirms again the danger of the existence of settlements to the safety of the implementation of the declaration of principles," it said in a statement.

(Continued on page 5)



The mother of Palestinians Sahdeh and Mohammad Fatafatah grieves during their funeral in Tulkarm on Friday. The two Palestinians and their cousin Ishak were killed by Israeli settlers in Kharas in a wave of killings (AFP photo)

Abu Nowar: Jordan-PLO economic pact possible this month

By Rami Sabagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) might sign an economic cooperation accord later this month to regulate links between Amman and an emerging Palestinian entity, Jordan's acting prime minister said on Saturday.

Amman signed an accord with Israel on Dec. 1. It sets terms for reopening over 20 branches of Jordanian banks in the West Bank, closed down after Israel occupied the area from Jordan during the 1967 Middle East war.

Acting Prime Minister Maan Abu Nowar said PLO leader Yasser Arafat told Jordanian officials during a visit to Amman last week he might return after this Dec. 15 visit to Britain.

"There was agreement in principle to look into possibilities of signing the economic accord after Dec. 15... maybe it will be signed in the latter half of this month," he told Reuters.

Mr. Arafat met King Hussein
(Continued on page 3)

Most of Safeway blaze casualties out of hospital

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Most of the 359 people who were hospitalised Friday after fire broke out at the Safeway department store were released Saturday and the majority of the casualties who are still in hospitals are in good condition. Civil Defence Department officials said.

Only eight victims of Amman's worst fire in nearly two years are in "serious conditions," they said.

The officials, who asked not to be identified by name, confirmed that most of the casualties, who were rushed to various hospitals when fire erupted at the entrance of the building, were suffering from smoke inhalation and injuries sustained during the stampede that developed when panic-stricken shoppers crammed the gates of the cement, mostly closed structure.

Over 1,000 shoppers were reported to have been trapped at the largest department store in the Kingdom before they were evacuated by fire men, health workers, volunteers and security officers. Thousands of people frequent the store daily and Fridays are its busiest days.

A special committee is still

investigating the causes of the fire which initial reports blamed on a short circuit which occurred at the "ice man" placed at the entrance of the building to mark the Christmas season.

Safeway owners Zahi and Zaher Al Masri said the store was in compliance with all safety measures required by law and that the alarm system, fire hoses and emergency lights and exits were in order when the fire broke out at about 6:35 p.m.

"They all functioned properly," said Zahi Al Masri.

(Continued on page 12)

Thanks from
SAFEWAY,
page 7

SAFEWAY

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Friday evening Dec. 10th, 1993

God may bless the magnanimous

HASHEMITE ROYAL FAMILY

under the leadership of

HIS MAJESTY

KING HUSSEIN BIN TALAL

For many settlers, moving back to Israel a possibility

MAALE EFRAIM, occupied West Bank (AP) — The offer of a government-subsidised house for the equivalent of \$40,000 and the breathtaking view over the Jordan Valley lured Soli Ovadia to this Jewish settlement 14 years ago.

Last summer, just before news broke that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) made a secret deal on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied lands, she deepened her commitment by paying the equivalent of \$60,000 for a shop in a little mall.

Now, with bloodletting on the rise and the future increasingly uncertain, Mrs. Ovadia is having second thoughts.

"The shootings are starting to get closer to us, if there are more... I will have to leave," said Mrs. Ovadia, 40, standing behind the counter of her household goods and toys store.

Mrs. Ovadia isn't like the settler zealots who have dominated the TV screens with their violent street protests, vows to torpedo the Israeli-PLO accord and plans to bring down the government.

But she represents a sizeable group among the 125,000 settlers. Tens of thousands moved to the occupied lands so they could afford a bigger house or raise children in a close-knit community, not because religious fervor pushed them to reclaim God's promised land for the Jews.

About 70 per cent of the settlers are secular and 30 per cent religiously observant.

Now that Palestinian autonomy looms, many secular settlers are considering moving back to Israel. A poll this week indicated more than half would leave in exchange for compensation, compared to about one-fifth of the religious Jews.

Haim Aviv, "mayor" of Maale Efraim, said most of the 4,500 settlers would move back to Israel if ordered by the government, although with a heavy heart.

"I will not lie on the road. I will not burn tyres. We have told the government we will not be an obstacle," said Mr. Aviv, 46, a lieutenant colonel in the army reserves.

Some settlers have already asked for government help to move back. They can't leave because home prices are falling in the settlements and rising in Israel.

"People have tried to sell their apartments and nobody will buy," said Yossi Katz, a legislator in Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party. Mr. Katz, submitted a bill this week that would offer any settler willing to move back either compensation or one of thousands of government-owned homes standing empty in remote areas.

Mr. Katz said he has been approached by scores of families. Batya Sela of Maale Efraim asked Cabinet Minister Shulamit Aloni for help. "We don't want to be guinea pigs for the next five or six years," Mrs. Sela wrote.

Ms. Aloni asked Mr. Rabin to set up a compensation fund, but Mr. Rabin won't commit himself, both because the stated government policy is that settlements should remain for at least five years and because the issue is explosive.

If Mr. Rabin promised compensation to all settlers now, he would signal the Palestinians that Israel will give back all occupied lands. If he limited compensation to certain settlements, he'd be giving away his secret vision of Israel's final borders.

Some in Mr. Rabin's Labour Party say the government can't afford billions of dollars in compensation.

"Once they were paid to go there, and now they should be paid to go back?" said Ephraim Sneh, a legislator and former West Bank military governor.

Ideas are emerging in Labour, though they are far from being official policy, to give settlers a choice at the end of the five years of moving to Israel or staying on under Palestinian rule. This would absolve the government of the potentially divisive task of uprooting settlements.

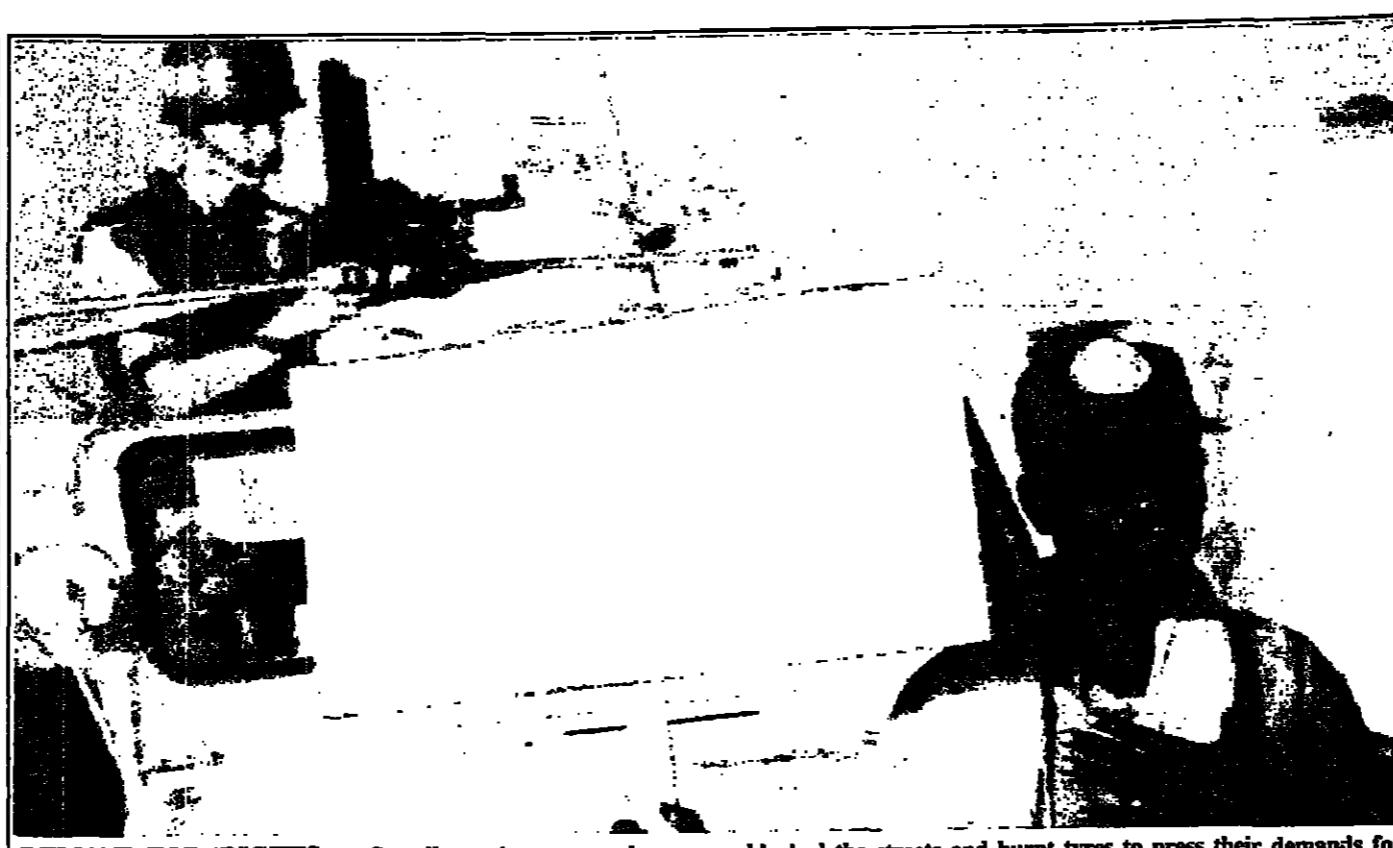
Mr. Aviv said he would rather know what's in store, even if he doesn't like the answers, uncertainty will only produce more violence from both sides, he said.

Over the past week, Palestinian militants killed two settlers in drive-by shootings and seriously wounded a third, while two Palestinians were slain by settlers without apparent provocation.

"God help us if we have five years like this," Mr. Aviv said.

Mr. Aviv said his stay depended on personal safety, including Israeli control over the highways leading to Jerusalem, 40 kilometres away, and Tel Aviv, kilometres away.

"If the government were to tell me that a Palestinian policeman can pull me over, I would say 'here are the keys to my home, my settlement, we are all leaving,'" Mr. Aviv said.



DEMAND FOR 'RIGHTS' : A Somali security man carries a signboard as he passes by a U.N. car during a demonstration in Mogadishu on Saturday. Several hundred U.N. security guards

blocked the streets and burnt tyres to press their demands for higher salaries, overtime and sick leave (AFP photo)

Hamas attacks are 'a message to Israel, PLO'

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip — Abu Ali, a leader of the Islamic underground, said Friday his group has been killing Israelis to show both Israel and the incoming Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) authorities that Islamic militants were a force to be reckoned with.

Using a code name because he fears arrest, Abu Ali is a member of the Izzedine Al Qassam brigades, a military wing of Hamas named for a Syrian guerrilla leader killed in a battle with British troops in 1935.

Hamas' brigades claim responsibility for 11 of the 14 killings of Israelis since Israel and the PLO signed an accord on Sept. 13.

"We in Hamas see the killing of Jews as an act that brings us closer to Allah," said Abu Ali, 20, who wore a black-and-white checkered kaffiyeh and a sweater with a pistol poking out.

His chilling rhetoric comes while both Islamic and Jewish militants are using violence to kill a plan scheduled to start Monday to withdraw Israeli troops and hand over power to Yasser Arafat's PLO in the Gaza Strip and West Bank region of Jericho.

Wall slogans, spray-painted in blood red and signed by Izzedine Al Qassam, threaten

Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "You must know that you will be punished for all your crimes," said one graffiti scrawl.

Despite the rhetoric, there are indications Hamas is willing to compromise.

Abu Ali said Hamas would stop attacking civilians if the army did likewise.

Since the PLO-Israel accord was signed, 41 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis, the vast majority youths who died in clashes with soldiers.

Abu Ali, a student who spent 20 months in jail for belonging to the outlawed Hamas, said the campaign was addressed as much to the PLO as to Israel.

"Hamas wants to prove, not only to the Israelis but to the coming Palestinians authority, that... no one can walk over us," said Abu Ali.

A religious ruling, from militant Muslim clergy cleared the way this month for Hamas to form an alliance with dissident Marxist PLO factions. In a test of political muscle, the alliance ousted Mr. Arafat's followers from the student council of Bir Zeit University in the West Bank — a stronghold of Mr. Arafat's Fatah organisation.

Despite their rising influence, Hamas and allied opponents do not have the power to stop the PLO-Israel agreement. In fact, they appear to be angling for authority rather than a shootout.

"God help us if we have five years like this," Mr. Aviv said.

Mr. Aviv said his stay depended on personal safety, including Israeli control over the highways leading to Jerusalem, 40 kilometres away, and Tel Aviv, kilometres away.

"If the government were to tell me that a Palestinian policeman can pull me over, I would say 'here are the keys to my home, my settlement, we are all leaving,'" Mr. Aviv said.

Heather Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian negotiator, has been insisting on dealing only with Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

But her role, along with other negotiators, was eclipsed when Israel and PLO leaders bypassed official talks to strike a secret peace deal which is due to bring PLO leaders back to administer the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Born two years before

Israel's creation in 1948 to a Christian family, Dr. Ashrawi has been embroiled in the Arab-Israeli conflict most of her life.

Her father was involved in Palestinian resistance to the establishment of Israel in 1948 and participated in the founding meeting of the PLO in 1964, Dr. Ashrawi said.

She was studying at the American University in Beirut in 1967 when Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in war.

She said she dug shelters in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and began her political work there on behalf of the Palestinian cause.

An English professor at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University, Dr. Ashrawi lives in Ramallah with her husband Emile, who is a musician and a photographer for the United Nations, and her daughters Zeina, 12, and Amal, 16.

She gained prominence partly because Israel initially insisted on dealing only with Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

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Dr. Ashrawi first boosted

the PLO's image in the world with her reasoned statements to international news media as spokeswoman for Palestinian negotiators at the start of Middle East peace talks in Madrid in 1991.

She was sought almost daily by the international press for comments. Her perfect English, easy smile and western style of dress has made her popular with U.S. television networks.

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Denktash excludes quick return to Cyprus talks

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said Friday that it would take weeks for a new government in north Cyprus to be ready to resume peace talks.

"The U.N. talks cannot resume before the end of January," he told Reuters in an interview two days ahead of a general election which could decide his political future.

Dr. Denktash said the new government would "find itself in a very difficult situation internally and internationally" and would need time to sort out its approach.

He said new U.N.-sponsored negotiations with the Greek Cypriots should take place mainly on the island itself, rather than in New York where previous rounds have been held.

Cyprus has been divided since Turkish troops invaded in 1974 in response to a Greek-Cypriot coup aimed at uniting the island with Greece. The Turkish republic of north Cyprus declared independence in 1983 but only Ankara recognises it.

Dr. Denktash resigned as his community's negotiator in July because of Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu's public attacks

on the U.N. proposals for a federal solution to the Cyprus problem.

He has in the past declared that he would quit politics if Mr. Eroglu was returned to power at the head of the ruling National Unity Party (UBP), which Dr. Denktash founded but now opposes.

Asked if his resignation threat still stood, Dr. Denktash said: "Nothing is sure in politics, but I don't think they will win."

The UBP has denounced the veteran president for taking an active part in the election campaign on behalf of the Democracy Party.

"The president must be neutral and impartial — but not when he is made the target in an election campaign. Then he has the right to say something," Dr. Denktash retorted.

The Democracy Party was formed by 10 rebel MPs who broke away from the UBP last year with Dr. Denktash's support.

The split in the UBP appears to have broken the previously predictable mould of Turkish-Cypriot politics and the result of the election to the 50-seat parliament hangs in the balance.

Human rights improve in Morocco — Amnesty

RABAT (R) — Morocco's human rights record is improving but abuses continue, including police brutality and detention of political prisoners, Amnesty International said on Friday.

Representatives of the London-based human rights group who visited Morocco in November "confirmed that improvements in aspects of the human rights situation had taken place," Amnesty said in a statement faxed to Reuters.

The representatives "stressed that Morocco's failure to free prisoners of conscience and to release or resolve the cases of those who have 'disappeared' for years in secret detention remain an open sore on its human rights record," the statement added.

It said there were no longer any reports of torture in custody but still some cases of brutality.

Amnesty's investigators, Elizabeth Hodkin and Donatella Rovera, had a "positive discussion" with Omar Azzam, the minister of human rights appointed by King Hassan on Nov. 11 in a new government of non-party technocrats.

They handed him a list of more than 500 political prisoners, including more than 150 prisoners of conscience, the statement said.

It also listed 80 Moroccans and 483 Western Saharans who had "disappeared" after arrest, "many of whom are believed to be still alive in secret detention," the statement said.

Morocco's claim to the former Spanish territory of Western Sahara is disputed by the Polisario guerrilla group and the issue is supposed to be put to a referendum supervised by the United Nations.

The Amnesty mission also conferred with the Consultative Council on Human Rights (CCHR), a multi-party group appointed by King Hassan three years ago.

It said there were no longer any political prisoners in secret detention centres in Morocco. The group's secretary-general, Mohammad Mikou, said Amnesty reports of non-party technocrats.

At a news conference on Dec. 3, the CCHR denied there were any political prisoners in secret detention centres in Morocco. The group's secretary-general, Mohammad Mikou, said Amnesty reports of non-party technocrats.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Nigerians urge Egypt against Babangida

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's leading pro-democracy alliance urged Egypt Friday to reject any request for asylum from former military ruler Ibrahim Babangida, who is there with his family on holiday. "While we are aware that you reserve the right to grant or deny such applications for asylum, we would like you to know that the generality of Nigerian people whose destiny and lives he toyed with for eight years will not take kindly to your country's acceptance of his request," the Campaign for Democracy (CD) said in a letter to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. A copy of the letter was made available to Reuters. "General Babangida has a lot to explain regarding what he has done with the massive public funds and resources that passed through his hands and the many unexplained deaths and disappearances of Nigerian citizens, among many other alleged crimes against the Nigerian people," it said. There has been no official word that Mr. Babangida has requested asylum in Egypt, where he went on Dec. 1 ostensibly for holiday, but the CD said it was disturbed by press reports to the effect that Mr. Babangida had planned to settle there.

Turkey asks Barzani to control rebels

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has asked Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani to control rebel Kurds fighting for an independent state in southeast Turkey. Anatolian news agency reported Friday. Ms. Ciller asked Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), "to control separatists and terrorists in the region," it

Majali holds trade talks in Malaysia

UALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Jordan is keen to increase trade with Malaysia, Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Friday.

Speaking to reporters after his visit to Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Mr. Anwar said the Jordanians hoped to achieve this by establishing more contacts with the Malaysian business sector.

Dr. Majali arrived Friday for a two-day unofficial visit while in transit to Japan.

Total trade between both countries for the first five-month period in 1991 stood at \$27 million ringgit (\$12.25 million) and in Malaysia's favor.

Malaysia's export to Jordan include machinery and animal and vegetable oil including palm oil. It imports chemicals, crude materials and machinery from Jordan.

Mr. Anwar, who is also finance minister, said Jordan also hoped to strengthen education links with Malaysia.

There are 400 Malaysian students studying in Jordan sponsored mostly by the education ministry and state foundations and majoring in Islamic studies and Arabic language.

Dr. Majali also briefed Mr. Anwar on the development of peace in the Middle East region.

The Jordan News Agency,

Petra, added that Dr. Majali was also carrying a message to Emperor Akihito and Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan from His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent respectively.

A Royal Decree was issued Saturday appointing the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Maan Abu Nowar, as acting prime minister during Dr. Majali's visit to the Far East.

Another Royal Decree appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education Saeed Tell as acting information minister for Dr. Jawad Al Anani who is accompanying prime minister on his Asian trip.

The Jordan News Agency,



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday opens a handicrafts exhibit by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund. Funds from the sale of the items on exhibit will go

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince meet 2 visiting U.S. officials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday met at the Royal Court with U.S. member of congress Jessie Byron and presidential assistant for U.S. foreign aid programmes in finance and administrative affairs, Lasya Byron. The Crown Prince and the U.S. officials reviewed scopes of U.S.-Jordanian cooperation in science and technology and prospects for cooperation between both countries' organisations. The two guests emphasised the need for bolstering U.S.-Jordanian relations and called for continued consultations between the two sides.

J to hold annual sales meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors of the sales departments of Royal Jordanian (RJ) will open their annual conference in Amman on Wednesday. The directors of 110 RJ stations around the world will discuss RJ plans for 1994 and an assessment of their 1993 performance. RJ earlier this year announced that it made \$30 million in operational profits in 1992. The meeting Wednesday coincides with the RJ's 30th anniversary.

Amnesty branch to mark 'declaration' anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation, has underlined the need for promoting human rights worldwide, said AI secretary general for the Amman Jordan branch Tawfiq Abu Baker Saturday. Addressing a press conference in observance of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Mr. Abu Baker said that the Jordan chapter plans to organise a festival in Zarqa on Thursday as part of the activities to spread awareness of and the meaning and value of the declaration drafted by United Nations 45 years ago. AI members, who estimated at one million, are struggling to inform the human rights principles into reality throughout the world, added Mr. Abu Baker. He said thousands of copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be distributed during the seminars and lectures and during the festival on Thursday.

Special prayers for rain on Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Saturday announced that it will organise special prayers for rain on Thursday afternoon. It said that it will issue a statement announcing the exact time for the prayers.

Interior Minister meets with visiting democracy advocates

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad Saturday received a delegation from the Washington-based National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and briefed them on Jordan's democratic march.

The minister reviewed the 1989 and 1993 elections and told the delegation, chaired by Lewis Mallow, that Jordan is ready to share its experience with developing countries seeking to adopt democracy. In an interview with Jordan Television, an NDI representative said that the institute is concerned with the development of political democracy around the world. "NDI is very interested in continuing to gather information about political processes and hopes to continue to cooperate with Jordanians in exchanging views about the development of democracy," he said.

The delegation visited the Ministry of Interior's different departments and was briefed on the procedures taken before and during the parliamentary elections held last month.

AFSED to assess thermal power project

AMMAN (Petra) — A team representing the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development (AFSED) arrived in Amman Saturday to conduct an assessment of the second phase of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station.

The assessment is needed to help determine the fund's contribution to the project. AFSED has financed several projects mainly in power generation. The team will hold contacts with officials at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the ministries of Planning and Energy and Mineral Resources.

Yajouz-Ruseifeh-Zarqa Road to be expanded

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Governor Misleh Tarawneh Saturday said that the ministry will embark on the restoration and expansion of the Yajouz-Ruseifeh-Zarqa road as of the beginning of 1994. He said that the present road will be enlarged to accommodate heavy traffic, adding that the cost of the project will be around JD 1.5 million.

Georgian world cyclist arrives in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jober Lijama, a Georgian cyclist, arrived in Jordan from Lebanon and Syria and will continue his world tour, which includes other Arab states.

WHAT'S GOING ON

following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Art exhibition by artist Samia Zarou at the Open Studio "Al Marsam Al Mafrah," Jabal Amman, 2nd Circle (9:00-13:00 and 15:00-17:00 all day except Fridays).

Exhibition of handicrafts at the Marriott hotel.

Photographic exhibition by artist Basheer Al-Hajeh at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Arabic art exhibition on the intifada and Jerusalem at the Professional Association complex.

Two exhibition of paintings by Edelbert De la Portilla and Piri Pawlukow at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of prints and drawings by Fakhri Al Nissa Zeid at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.)

Arabic art exhibition by a number of Iraqi

artists at La Casa Art Gallery (between the 5th and 6th Circles).

★ Exhibition of sewing equipment at the Royal Cultural Centre (11:00 - 7:00 p.m.).

★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Khalid Khreis at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of watercolours by artist Shaher Jirmi at the Goethe Institute.

★ Art exhibition by artist Farghali Abdel Hafez at the Bait Al Art Gallery in Al Fuheis (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720902).

★ Plastic art exhibition by several Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Orfali Art Gallery in Um Uthaima.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

★ Christmas carols presentation at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

★ Film entitled "Dumbo" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (64 minutes).

★ Circassian film entitled "The Turflight of Hopes" at Philadelphia Cinema at 8:30 p.m.

Arabic art exhibition by a number of Iraqi

Crown Prince says Kingdom strives towards self-reliance plus interaction in world economy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday said that Jordan would continue to strive towards self-reliance while remaining open to interaction with the world economy.

Petra, added that Dr. Majali was also carrying a message to Emperor Akihito and Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan from His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent respectively.

A Royal Decree was issued Saturday appointing the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Maan Abu Nowar, as acting prime minister during Dr. Majali's visit to the Far East.

Another Royal Decree appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education Saeed Tell as acting information minister for Dr. Jawad Al Anani who is accompanying prime minister in his Asian trip.

During the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz, the two sides discussed the peace process and the difficult conditions of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

Also Saturday, Mr. Karaamanoglu discussed issues of concern to Jordan in talks with the speakers of the Senate and the Lower House of Parliament.

"I had the pleasure and honour of meeting with the speaker of Parliament, and they shared with me their views about the challenges that face

Jordan today," said the World Bank official.

"They also discussed with

me their ideas about the best

approaches to these issues both

in terms of domestic policies

and in terms of international

assistance for Jordan," he added.

Mr. Karaamanoglu said he

was very much impressed with

the quality of their analysis and

the realism of their approach

and willingness to support the

government in the difficult task

it faces.

Speaker of the Lower House

Taher Al Masri told Mr.

Karaamanoglu that Jordan

realises the important role of

the World Bank, and that it

was difficult to carry out any

reform in Jordan without the

World Bank's assistance.

Jordan is implementing a

comprehensive economic

development plan covering

various parts of the country,

said Mr. Masri. He added that the

country is currently facing

difficulties as a result of unem

ployment and the decline in

per capita income, stress

ing that the government was

striving to encourage small and

medium size income-generat

ing projects to deal with this

problem.

Senate Speaker Ahmad Al

Lawzi briefed the guest on

Jordan's stand regarding

peace, and said he hoped that

the World Bank would in

crease its cooperation with Jor

dan in various fields.

The speaker also pointed out

that Jordan has been shoulder

ing heavy burdens as a result of

wars and political events over

the past 50 years.

Afra mineral springs to be developed into tourist, therapeutic attraction

TAFILEH (Petra) — The Afra mineral water springs near Tafileh will soon be developed, and tourist facilities will be set up to offer better services to visitors, according to Khaled Wahoush, director of the Tourism Office in Tafileh government.

Mr. Wahoush said in a statement Saturday that a special Afra Springs development task force held a meeting here Saturday, under the chairmanship of Tafileh Governor Lawzi, to discuss preliminary

plans for the project.

The task force asked a Jordanian firm to conduct a feasibility study on the project and to find a way to avert the springs area from being exposed to winter floods in order to make way for the establishment of the tourist facilities and services.

The project is to be financed by the Industrial Development Bank and foreign institutions, said Mr. Wahoush, who gave no details about funding.

The thermal waters of the

springs are used in therapeutic treatments for some skin disorders, rheumatism and other afflictions, said Mr. Wahoush.

The committee plans to set up chalets and build thermal water swimming pools, while the health and the public works ministries will be setting up clinics and building roads to the Afra Springs as of the beginning of 1994, according to Mr. Wahoush.

He said that the tourist facilities should help the local economy of Tafileh.

HELPING PALESTINIAN ORPHANS: The Goethe Institute in Amman Saturday announced it is organising a concert by the Belaros Trio on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at the Regency Palace Hotel to raise funds for the activities of the Dar Al Tifl Orphanage in Jerusalem. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Princess Rania Al Abdullah are expected to attend

the concert. According to Goethe Director Dieter Glade Dar Al Tifl is a philanthropic organisation dedicated to the welfare of Palestinian orphans since the massacre of Deir Yassin in 1948. He said that the trio, Jürgen Besig on violin, Albrecht Riehle, cello and Dieter Lallinger on piano, was formed in 1964 and has won acclaimed world fame

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Established 1974

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Lesson of fire

INSURANCE companies and the owners of the Safeway department store will foot the bill of restoration work at the Kingdom's largest department store after fire broke out in it Friday. But, at least, the lightness of injuries sustained by the shoppers affected and the absence of fatalities among the victims are reasons for enormous relief.

In all cases the accident provides an ample opportunity to assess the preparedness of public buildings and institutions to deal with emergencies and protect the lives and property of citizens.

This opportunity should not be missed.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday urged the introduction of legislation that would ensure the readiness of public buildings to protect citizens at times of disasters.

Prince Hassan's call should be responded to immediately. The gravity of the danger inherent in the failure of public buildings to abide by safety measures and precautions makes any laxity in this regard a crime.

Yet such laxity does exist in enforcing the laws that require national institutions and companies to have fire fighting equipment within reach of the public. So limited is the number of companies which train their personnel on how to use them. Laws require that all cars have fire extinguishers. But a few motorists follow the law and traffic police have long forgotten how to check them on the streets.

Many of the injuries that were sustained during the Safeway fire resulted from the stampede created by panic-stricken shoppers who rushed to the gate for escape. No one can blame them for trying to run for their lives. But blame can be apportioned on gaps in educational system whether in schools or other institutions for not training people on how to act in times of crisis and disaster.

The lessons from the Safeway fire are many. They should not be forgotten.

The preparedness of public places to deal with crisis should be inspected on regular basis. Regulations on safety precautions should be enforced vigorously and violators should be held accountable. Civil defence courses should be made obligatory for all companies.

What is at stake here is human lives. We should not wait until people die to start implementing laws and regulations so important and so necessary to protecting our citizens. The Safeway fire should drive this point home, soon as it can.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

MONDAY, Dec. 13 is the date for the start of the Israeli withdrawals from the occupied Arab lands, but nothing seems to be taking place to prepare for this event, said Al Ra's Arabic daily Saturday. The Israelis continue to delay the implementation of the PLO-Israel deal, continue to impose repression through the Jewish settlers and continue to practise the iron-fist policy against the Palestinians, said the daily. Despite the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the Arab region to try to smooth the way for the resumption of the Middle East peace process, and despite the announcement that the U.S. and Syrian presidents will meet to stimulate the talks, the Israelis are continuing to show intransigence and continue to obstruct any progress towards a settlement, said the daily. Noting that the Palestinian leadership is currently embroiled in internal differences, the paper said that the Israeli leaders persist in their statements in which they declare that they will not give any concessions that might affect their country's security, added the paper. The paper said that while PLO leader Yasser Arafat is going ahead with plans to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in a futile attempt to defuse the issue, the Israeli settlers continue their drive to fortify their settlements amidst the Arab people. The paper said that the world Zionists occupied Palestine under the pretext of providing protection to the Jews living in Palestine, and they occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to ensure security for the state of Israel, and they are now trying to kill the peace process under the pretext of ensuring safety to the Jewish settlements. If the peace process is based on U.N. resolutions, said the paper, the world community should see to it that nothing should stand in the way of their application.

AL DUSTOUR daily said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher must have exerted all his efforts to arrange for a meeting between the U.S. and the Syrian presidents next month, and for the resumption of the Middle East peace talks. With these arrangements, Christopher's tour has achieved its purpose, which is to stimulate the peace negotiations especially along the Syrian-Israeli track, said the daily. There is no doubt, said the paper, that the U.S. secretary has done all that was possible to achieve this end because Washington realises that only a comprehensive peace would end the Arab-Israeli conflict that has lasted for decades. In the paper's view, Washington also realises that partial and bilateral deals can by no means bring about a lasting settlement and that there was no alternative to the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

No deficit — a viable objective of a prudent fiscal policy

Sami Gamoh, minister of finance, is scheduled to present today the budget for 1994 to the Parliament. He is expected to benefit from the negative response to his earlier comments about the budget, in which case he will not again describe the budget as balanced or without deficit.

It is true that the budget listed sources of receipts equal to the estimated general expenditure. But those sources include foreign aid and local and foreign borrowing, which could not be legitimately described as revenues. If the mere equality of all sources and all applications of funds in the budget is enough to describe the budget as "balanced", then all the budgets are balanced and without deficit. Funds could not be spent unless and until they are raised out of taxes, transfers, or loans.

The fact of the matter is that foreign aid and loans were needed to cover the deficit. Jordan would not expect foreign aid and will not borrow, unless there is a deficit to finance. In this respect, it would be much wiser to define what deficit we are talking about. There is a deficit before foreign aid, another deficit before borrowing and a third deficit before both. There is a deficit after foreign aid to be covered by foreign aid, but, of course, there is no deficit after both foreign aid and borrowing, and perhaps that is what the minister of finance

meant when he boasted that his budget is balanced and without deficit.

The deficit in the 1994 budget is actually JD 456.4 million, while the deficit after foreign aid is JD 300 million, which will be covered by domestic and foreign loans and through rescheduling. The deficit may be even higher if rescheduled interest on foreign loans is not fully accounted for in the current expenditure section.

What makes the deficit more solid is the fact that a major part of the expected foreign aid is not yet committed by identified donors, and that rescheduling of loans could not be taken for granted before Jordan is able to enact the controversial law of sales tax.

The above arguments by no means suggest that the new budget did not improve in comparison to past budgets. At least the financing section of the budget is balanced in that repaid loans equal new borrowing and financing. For the first time, the treasury will not need to borrow more than it is required to repay. Last year the budget showed fresh borrowing of JD 48 million in excess of repayments, which the capital expenditure budget needed to cover the balance of its deficit. Such deficit will be totally covered in 1994 from the surplus of current budget.

Until now Jordan used to borrow more than repay, which meant continued growth of foreign indebtedness. Now Jordan is at the turning point, where it still has to borrow, but not more than what it is expected to repay. The past situation meant continued net borrowing. 1994 budget is based on zero net borrowing and the target as of 1995 will be to shift to net repayment, i.e., to borrow less than repay.

In other words, writing off all foreign debts was not enough during the past four years, while now Jordan reached the point where it needs not to borrow any more for budget purposes if its outstanding debt were miraculously written off.

It is almost sure that the indebtedness crisis is contained as long as Jordan adheres to the economic adjustment programme, which became virtually accepted with some reservations by all responsible politicians and economists in the country. The process can be safely described as irreversible.

The structure of the new budget suggests that writing off the current external debts of Jordan will mean that Jordan will no more need foreign aid to support its central government budget.

The no-deficit description used by the minister of finance is obviously a matter of words. It is not yet a reality, but it is definitely a viable objective of a prudent fiscal policy.

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Nelson Mandela: Symbol for freedom fighters

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela received the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday after a lifetime of struggle to end apartheid and enfranchise South Africa's black majority.

The African National Congress (ANC) leader is co-recipient of the prize with President F.W. de Klerk, who in February 1990 freed Mr. Mandela from 27 years in prison and started to dismantle the apartheid system of racial segregation.

But Mr. Mandela has never lost faith in the cause he devoted his life to, preaching tolerance, peace and understanding to militant township youths impatient for change.

In 1991, Mr. Mandela faced possibly his most painful trial, when his wife Winnie was convicted of leading her bodyguard in kidnapping four youths and of being an accessory to assaults.

He initially stood by her, but then began to live apart and in April 1992 he announced their formal separation after more serious allegations were made

against Winnie.

Friends said he grew depressed after the April 10 murder in South Africa of his colleague Chris Hani, leader of the South African Communist Party, and the death from illness soon after of his close friend and ANC associate Oliver Tambo.

But Mr. Mandela has never lost faith in the cause he devoted his life to, preaching tolerance, peace and understanding to militant township youths impatient for change.

In 1991, Mr. Mandela faced possibly his most painful trial, when his wife Winnie was convicted of leading her bodyguard in kidnapping four youths and of being an accessory to assaults.

He refused to bargain for his release and rejected offers of liberty in exile.

Mr. de Klerk has apologised

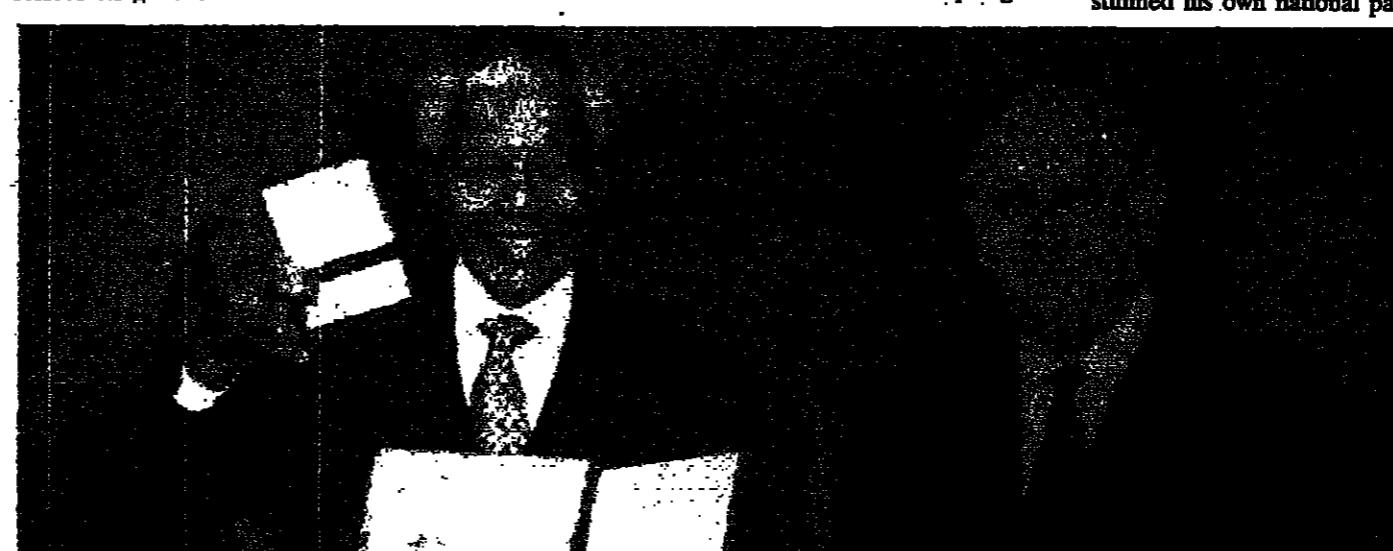
JOHANNESBURG (R) — President F.W. de Klerk, who received the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday with ANC leader Nelson Mandela, started to dismantle South Africa's apartheid system in early 1990.

He diverted the nation's white Afrikaner population away from its obsession with segregation and dismantled the web of race laws that made up South Africa internationally reviled.

Mr. Mandela has been critical of Mr. de Klerk, saying the leader of the National Party which created apartheid in 1948 to perpetuate white rule "is actually waging war against our people."

But the African National Congress leader said of Mr. de Klerk before leaving for Oslo: "He has made a contribution we must acknowledge. Without him...it would have been impossible for us to make this progress without the cooperation of the government of the country. To this extent, Mr. de Klerk has played a very important role."

Mr. de Klerk has apologised



African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela (left) and South African President F.W. de Klerk Friday show the Nobel Prize certificates they won for peace at a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden (AFP photo)

Reforming economist Gaidar learns political game

By Janet Guttman

Reuter

MOSCOW — When hardline communists stormed Russia's television centre in the early October, President Boris Yeltsin was nowhere to be seen.

Yegor Gaidar, balding, baby-faced and rather fat, took on the task of rallying support. In a surprise broadcast from a backup studio the first deputy prime minister appealed to Russians to take up arms to defend the Kremlin.

A "bloody, brown curtain" of fascism would fall on Russia if the communist-led revolt succeeded, he said.

Mr. Gaidar, brought back into the government days before the bloody events of Oct. 3 and 4, had long been the champion of Russia's drive to a market economy.

Now the 37-year-old economist-turned-politician hopes Russians will back him and his policies in the Dec. 12 parliamentary polls.

He leads the pro-reform movement Russia's Choice and has been a key figure throughout the election campaign.

"Of course I understand that there are a lot of people who do not support the government's reforms and of course they will support the communists or parties allied with the communists," Mr. Gaidar told Reuters in a brief interview

late last month.

"But I believe in the common sense of our people... and the vast majority of them do not want to try another socialist experiment in this country this century," he said.

Mr. Gaidar was plucked from academic obscurity in December 1991 to spearhead Russia's economic reforms, aimed at transforming a communist centrally planned system to a free market economy modelled on the capitalist system of the West.

He preached the capitalist gospel at home and abroad, calling for open markets, free trade and limited state control.

But the free-market piper has changed his tune and now calls for limited protection for Russian industry and import taxes to protect vulnerable firms.

"In 1992, when shops were bare and goods were in short supply, we lifted import restrictions for six months," he said.

Since last summer we have started reinstating these import tariffs. We believe that domestic markets should be protected and we can use these tariffs to raise some additional revenues."

The economic reforms over the last 23 months have thrust millions of Russians below the poverty line and raised the spectre of mass unemployment

if new bankruptcy laws are allowed to bite and uneconomic factories are forced to close.

But Mr. Gaidar said reforms had brought positive results.

"Russia is no longer an economy plagued by shortages," he told a recent news conference. "The Russian economy is now an open economy, our trade balance is positive, and we are building up foreign exchange reserves."

Mr. Gaidar's pro-market line won him enthusiastic backing from western leaders. "Our people were very impressed with Gaidar," said one Moscow-based western diplomat, summarising Mr. Gaidar's performance at international meetings.

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Features

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1993 5

Can Arabs and Jews coexist?

By Norma Holmes

WASHINGTON — What will it take to bring Arabs and Jews together? What obstacles impede their coexistence?

Two members of the only integrated Jewish-Arab village in Israel are in the United States this week to present an example of the success of one 13-year-old Israeli community, located 40 kilometers from Jerusalem.

Adinah Mana'a and Bob Mark, long-time teachers and experts in coexistence who founded the Neve Shalom/Wahat al Salam (Oasis of Peace) residential village for Palestinian and Israeli families, say interest in their project has mushroomed in Israel and the occupied territories since the signing of the Sept. 13 Israeli-PLO peace agreement.

Mr. Mana'a and Mr. Mark plan to describe life in Neve Shalom and its new School for Peace, the village adult education project financed by a grant from the New Israel Fund, in a series of fund-raising events in five U.S. cities.

The New Israel Fund is an international organization dedicated to strengthening democracy, promoting pluralism and tolerance, and bridging social and economic gaps among disadvantaged populations.

At a Dec. 3 luncheon at the Brookings Institution, the two educators discussed the future of Arab-Israeli relations and the flood of interest in the project in recent weeks.

"Peace is going to come about through political solutions," but those solutions depend upon building trust — trust through dialogue, education and effort, Mr. Mark said. "The policy of the present (Israeli) government is based on the success of work like ours," he added, i.e. on building trust between the two peoples. "I don't see (any other) alternative."

The work currently being done has the backing, Mr. Mana'a believes, of "the silent majority in Israel and the West Bank." There are masses of people who want the peace to work." However, the dearth of mutual trust among the two communities "keeps them from standing fully behind" such projects. Building trust is "where the work lies," according to Mr. Mark.

He noted that many viewed and continue to view project organizers as naive, in terms of political realities, and yet "today, the question is no longer whether it is possible to conduct dialogue...but how."

Mr. Mana'a, a Palestinian Arab, echoed Mr. Mark's optimism, noting that Palestinians "are very happy that this is 'happening.' One expects 'many difficulties' as a part of the process... (so) 'the guarantees for continuing it is cooperation between the two peoples and their respective leadership,' he stressed.

Mr. Mana'a, a pharmacist by profession, said he sees a parallel between what is happening in the peace process and "holistic healing."

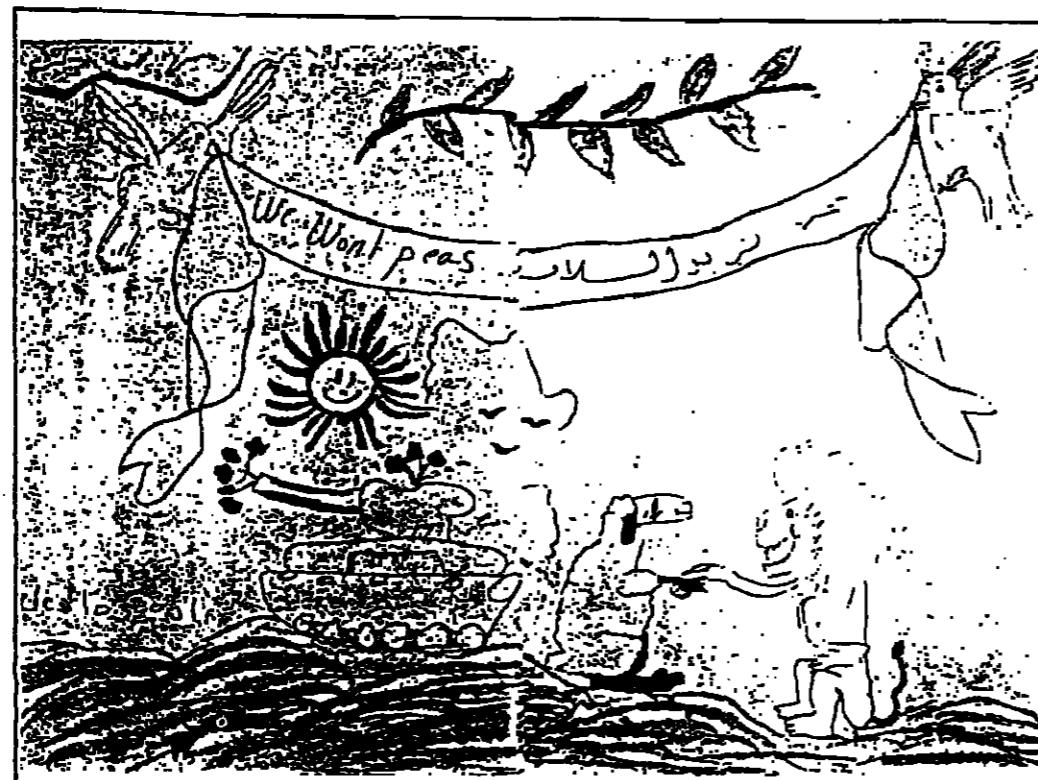
The first stage of healing "intensifies" the symptoms of the malady, he explained, just as violence has intensified between Palestinians and Israelis since the Sept. 13 signing. He termed the violence "normal and natural," a sign that "the treatment" is working.

Now the peace of Neve Shalom "is the normal state of living," Mr. Mana'a observed. "It's easy, believe me... (what is) abnormal is outside."

Since 1990, the New School for Peace has offered cross-cultural training to community leaders, using education and dialogue to overcome the psychological and cultural barriers that divide Arabs and Jews, with Neve Shalom as a model of a working community. Tel Aviv University has chosen the School for Peace to create a one-year graduate psychology "laboratory" programme. Over 13,000 have already gone through School for Peace workshops, according to Mr. Mark, who noted that cross-cultural encounter courses are given both within the Jewish and Palestinian communities, as well as jointly.

Mr. Mana'a said the Israeli city of Lod is building a new community centre where Arab and Jewish communities can interact. He noted that youth and leaders from Ramallah (West Bank) also met at Neve Shalom, and that the idea of an encounter course between Palestinians and Israeli policemen has also been suggested. "We would be very happy to do this if there is a positive reaction on both sides," Mr. Mana'a said.

Since its founding in 1980, Neve Shalom has brought together Palestinian and Jewish Israelis into a family setting in which decisions concerning education, lifestyle, and cultural traditions are decided jointly.



A child's impression of peace

"We've had many years to face the problems and discovered what it meant to give bilingual education, and to open it up to people outside — which had always been our ultimate goal," Mr. Mark said.

He said Neve Shalom began as a very small project, when five Israeli and Palestinian families decided to move to the village and develop principles upon which to build a community and rear their families.

The silent majority of people in Israel and the West Bank wants peace to work'

"One of the first decisions we had to make was how we would rear our children," Mr. Mark explained. "We opened up the first bilingual, binational educational system in Israel with five toddlers, and a Jewish and an Arab teacher." Each (teacher) spoke only her own language." And very soon, he said, all the children were conversing bilingually.

Today the primary school was excited — and very delighted.

Mr. Mana'a said he is one of a million Palestinians with an Israeli passport living in totally separate Palestinian communities inside Israel. His "first real meeting with Jews" came when he was 20 years old and attending Hebrew University, and it marked the first time he was able to talk to Jews frankly and directly about the conflict between Arabs and Jews.

"One of the big advantages I have given my children by living in Neve Shalom," he said, is that "they don't have that feeling of guilt because they are Arabs...or that things are as they are because we are Arab...They know they are responsible for their own actions."

"I see this as one of the most revolutionary projects in the field in Israel," Mr. Mark summed up. "The children are brought up (without considering) whether it's possible to become acquainted and to play with each other — for them, coexistence is a simple fact."

"We belong to no other group. We are truly a Jewish-Palestinian initiative, answerable only to our own determination to (fulfill) the aspirations of the two peoples who live in the village," he said. "And while we meet each other and learn more about each other, ultimately the village enables us to learn about ourselves and our own responsibilities."

In July, he concluded, the Israeli Ministry of Education "finally gave us recognition for the primary school — and more important, legitimacy." — United States Information Agency.

Happy First Birthday Champions

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A woman is condemned to death

By Taslima Nasrin

DHAKA, Bangladesh — At a rally at the National Mosque here in the capital of Bangladesh, a crowd of 10,000 Muslim fundamentalists has called for my death. The group that initiated the fatwa, or death sentence, the Council of Soldiers of Islam, has been joined by other fundamentalist groups demanding that the government ban my books and put "blasphemers" like me to death.

My most recent book, "Lajja" ("Shame"), was about a Hindu family persecuted in Bangladesh after the destruction of the Avodhya mosque in India in December 1992. In India, fundamentalist Hindus killed innocent Muslims; in Pakistan and Bangladesh, fundamentalist Muslims persecuted Hindus and burned their temples.

This summer, after 50,000 copies of the novel had been sold, the government banned it, under pressure from the fundamentalists, saying it was "creating misunderstanding between communities."

The country has laws against religious courts and their fatwas. But they are ignored. This year, in the village of Chatakchara, a young woman was stoned to death on orders from a local court because she had married a man after a divorce.

In the fight against obscurantism:

Rushdie gets defence from Muslims

By Alan Riding

PARIS — For the first time since Salman Rushdie was condemned to death by Iran on the ground that he blasphemed Islam in his 1989 novel, "The Satanic Verses," an important group of Arab and Muslim writers and intellectuals has spoken out in defence of his right to publish the book.

Rather than to simply put their names to a joint declaration, though, each has written a brief essay or poem — or in the case of the Moroccan composer, Ahmad Essyad, a short piece of music — dedicated to the British author and to the principle of freedom of expression.

"The veritable terrorism of which he is a target is unjustifiable, indefensible," wrote Naguib Mahfouz, the Egyptian who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1988. "One idea can only be opposed by other ideas. Even if the punishment is carried out, the idea will remain."

Tahar Ben Jelloun, a prominent Moroccan writer, said that no matter how much offense Rushdie's book might have caused, to condemn him to death for what he wrote is "intolerable, inadmissible and has nothing to do with the tolerant Islam that I was taught."

He added that literature as a whole, "the ability to create characters and develop them in the space and time chosen by the writer," was threatened because it can survive only in freedom. "Without freedom, "he said, "it is a great delight to find in this volume," he wrote, "the most gifted, the most learned, the most important voices of the Muslim and Arab world, gathered together to subject my work and the furor surrounding it to so brilliant, so many-sided, so judicious an examination."

"The book is important too," he said, "because it sets the affair of 'The Satanic Verses' in the context of the

intellectual history of many different countries — the history of persecution past and present.

Many of the authors seem all too aware of persecution. While condemning the edict against Rushdie, they also pointed to the threats and assassinations suffered by intellectuals in many Muslim countries today at the hands of religious extremists.

Several recalled the murder of the Egyptian writer Farag Fouda last year and the Algerian writer Tahar Djait in May, while others warned of the deepening confrontation between secular freedoms and Islamic fundamentalism. Many of the authors have themselves been forced into exile.

Abbas Baydoun, a Lebanese poet, said: "lack of interest in 'The Rushdie affair' among Arab and Muslim liberals and leftists reflected a 'generalized resignation' to allowing religious figures to define 'our history, our image, and our relations with the world.' And he added: "When an idea is attributed to a demon, exorcism by fire becomes the easiest solution."

Some authors, though, also noted that the Rushdie affair had highlighted the double standards that the West often applies to the Islamic world. For example, while quickly closing ranks behind Rushdie they said, the West seemed

stands.

Is our prime minister, Khalida Zia, afraid to stand up to the fundamentalists? Does she not see that by placating them, she allows them to grow stronger, and the time will come when they turn upon her, too?

Bangladesh is my motherland. We gained our independence from Pakistan at the sacrifice of 30 million lives. That sacrifice will be betrayed if we allow ourselves to be dominated by religious extremism. Bangladesh should stand for women's equality and harmony between people of different faiths.

The mullahs who would murder me will kill everything progressive in Bangladesh if they are allowed to prevail. It is my duty to try to protect my beautiful country from them. I call on all those who share my values to help me defend my rights. By doing so, they will help save Bangladesh.

The writer is a novelist, newspaper columnist and poet. This article is reprinted from the New York Times.

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PANORAMA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak: Foreigners backing unrest

KUWAIT (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in remarks published Saturday, reiterated foreign countries were fueling militant unrest and his government could retaliate although it would not want to do so. "As a state, we can carry out similar acts in other countries. We have the capability to do that, but that is not part of our methodology," he said in an interview with Kuwait's English language Arab Times and its sister paper Al Seyasseh. "Ours is a peace-loving people which does not believe in exporting terrorism to others," he was quoted as saying in the interview conducted in Cairo. Over the past year militants seeking to establish a strict Islamic state have launched bomb attacks on top government and military figures and foreign tourists, devastating Egypt's tourist industry. "These terrorists do not represent Islamic movements as it is claimed," Mr. Mubarak was quoted as saying. He described the militants as "mercenaries receiving funds from outside to destabilize Egypt." He declined to name the countries he said were backing the militants.

Sudan arms people to face 'Western threats'

BAGHDAD (R) — Sudan said it was arming its people to face what it feared was a threat from the West. Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir told an Iraqi newspaper Saturday that he feared the United States would intervene militarily in his country's internal affairs and that he was arming the country to meet the new threat. "The pressure (against Sudan) will continue to reach the stage of direct military intervention. We should not wait for this to happen to take action," the government newspaper Al Jumhouriya quoted Lieutenant-General Bashir as saying in an interview. "If there is a gun with every person in Sudan throughout one million square miles of the country, we shall be able to defeat any power," he said. Gen. Bashir said military training camps were spread across the country and were handing volunteers until late at night. He accused the United States and its Western allies of backing the rebels in the south to topple his government. Gen. Bashir defended his country's policy during the 1990 Gulf crisis over Kuwait and said Sudan had nothing to regret. Sudan sympathized with Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Gen. Bashir said there was no going back to multi-party democracy in Sudan. "We shall not return to the Western-style multi-party system which is rejected by our people. We shall not retreat from the Islamic-Arab policy at all."

Junblatt questions papal visit to Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Druze leader has expressed doubts about Pope John Paul's planned visit to the country and said he was not sure he wanted the Pope to come to the predominantly Druze Shouf mountains south of Beirut. Pope John Paul is expected to make a week-long trip to Lebanon in May and Vatican envoys have visited the Shouf to prepare for a papal visit to the area. Walid Junblatt, whose Druze forces drove the Maronite Christian minority from the Shouf during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, told Beirut Radio he urged the envoys not to exploit a papal visit to the mountains for sectarian purposes. Mr. Junblatt, whose forces were allied with Syria during the war, also criticised a Maronite Christian bishop for recently calling on Syria to withdraw its estimated 35,000 troops from Lebanon without urging an Israeli pullout from South Lebanon. The Pope's visit was "perhaps out of place if it comes amid a climate of internal disputes," Mr. Junblatt said. "We will see later if it is necessary for the Pope to visit the Shouf." Mr. Junblatt is government minister responsible for the return of displaced communities to their pre-war homes, but few of the tens of thousands of Christians who fled the Shouf have returned.

Kuwaiti journalists held over report

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti authorities held a newspaper publisher and editor overnight after they refused to pay bail during questioning about an allegedly defamatory report on state investments. A member of parliament said Saturday. Sami Al Munayes, publisher of left-leaning Al Talea weekly newspaper, and Ahmad Al Nafisi, editor-in-chief, were released Thursday evening after being called in for questioning on Wednesday morning by an official of the attorney-general's office, Deputy Abdullah Al Nibari said. The two were questioned at the Justice Ministry. They spent the night at a criminal investigation service office after refusing to pay bail, Mr. Nibari said. The two had argued payment would constitute an admission of guilt. They were freed after it was agreed that they lodge bail in the form of a non-monetary personal guarantee, Mr. Nibari said. The Interior Ministry and the attorney general's office declined immediate comment. Ahmad Al Jarallah, editor-in-chief of the English-language Arab Times and its sister paper Al Seyasseh, is suing Mr. Munayes. Mr. Nafisi and Al Talea managing director Ahmad Al Deyani for libel over a September article in Al Talea about state investments. Al Talea, mouthpiece of the liberal democratic Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF), and other opposition groups are campaigning for the exposure of former officials it says stole public funds in the 1980s and during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Mr. Munayes and Mr. Nafisi, both former deputies, and Mr. Deyani are leaders of the KDF. Mr. Nibari is the KDF representative in parliament.

Turkish police raid pro-Kurdish daily

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish police raided the offices of a pro-Kurdish newspaper in Istanbul and detained more than 40 employees, press sources said Saturday. Police entered the Ozgur Gundem's building Friday, rounded up 43 staff and workers and searched the offices, the sources said. They controlled the building overnight on the orders of a state security court. Police declined to comment on the raid. Among those arrested were chief editor Gurbetli Ersöz, assistant editor Ferda Cetin and news editor Gultam Kisanak, the Kurdish Information Centre said in a statement from London. The newspaper did not appear Saturday. Istanbul state security court twice ordered Ozgur Gundem closed last month for 15 days for publishing an interview with outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan and other items considered sympathetic to the Kurdish insurgency.

Bhutto ends formal talks in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto praised her country's ties with Turkey Saturday and said the two Muslim states should seek projects in the Central Asian republics. "Turkey is our second home," she told a news conference after holding formal talks with Tansu Ciller, Turkey's woman leader, on Friday. "The fact that two lady prime ministers of the Muslim World are holding negotiations is evidence of a strong political movement which is based on equality, a movement in which there is no such word as discrimination," she said. She and Ms. Ciller had agreed to seek joint projects in the mainly Muslim ex-Soviet republics of Central Asia, Ms. Bhutto said. Turkey and Pakistan, founders with Iran of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), should work to develop potential market formed after Afghanistan and six Central Asian states joined ECO in 1992, Ms. Bhutto said. She said Pakistan had reiterated its support for the rights of the Turkish Cypriots and Ms. Ciller had assured Ms. Bhutto of Turkish backing for Pakistan in the Kashmir dispute with India.

Kuwait wants Iraq to free all

LONDON (AFP) — Kuwait called on the world community Saturday to exert "increasing pressure" on Baghdad to free all Kuwaitis and other foreigners held in Iraq, following the release of three Britons two days ago. In a statement the Kuwaiti embassy here welcomed the release of the British nationals Thursday as "excellent news," but said Iraq "must not be rewarded for releasing people detained illegally in the first place." The embassy said an estimated 700 people remained captive in Iraq. Six hundred Kuwaitis "were taken at random" during Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and "they share their appalling conditions with French, Swiss, Indian, Filipinos and other bargaining chips."

Most isolated settlers in Gaza Strip dig in

By Robert Mahoney
Reuter

NETZARIM, Gaza Strip — They live on a levelled sand dune, inside a fence within a fence. They send their children to school under armed guard and sleep with Uzi sub-machineguns.

The people are religious Jews. The place is Netzirim, the most isolated settlement in the Gaza Strip.

The smaller fence is designed to keep Arabs out of the Jewish enclave. The bigger fence, running the length of the strip, is meant to keep them out of the "Jewish state."

In what looks like a desert prisoner-of-war camp, a handful of families sit on what they call their God-given land amid one million Palestinians who want them out.

There are more militant settlers and more strategically important settlements in the West Bank than here in the centre of the Strip.

But Netzirim and the nearby enclave of Kfar Darom could become test cases for the implementation of Israel's peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israel has vowed not to abandon settlements when it begins withdrawing troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho this month even though security officials see little military value in many of

them.

Netzirim and Kfar Darom were put there by a previous right-wing government for a political purpose — to impede any land-for-peace deal with the Palestinians.

Centrist Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin finds it politically impossible at present to entice or uproot any of the 120,000 settlers from the occupied territories.

But security sources said Netzirim and Kfar Darom were on the table at talks in Egypt to implement the two-phase accord. The sources see their 300 residents as a security headache and would like to relocate them in the second stage of the agreement in less than five years.

The Palestinians too fear the settlers will be a prime target for groups bent on wrecking the peace accord. They also think the presence of armed settlers under an army umbrella will undermine PLO claims to have secured an Israeli withdrawal.

"There is no doubt that the main problem in the implementation of the Oslo agreement is the distribution of the Jewish settlements, primarily in the Gaza district," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told members of parliament last week.

"From the Israeli standpoint the settlers are the big problem," said Joseph Alpher, director of Tel Aviv Universi-

ty's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

"The problem will be most keenly felt in those areas where there is a potential for day-to-day friction between the settlers and Palestinians in Gaza, that is Netzirim and Kfar Darom," Mr. Alpher said.

Zvi Hendel, leader of the 4,000 Gaza settlers, acknowledges that the future of Netzirim could be in the balance. "All the settlements will stay. The only argument is about Netzirim," he told Reuters. "Rabin said it was possible in the final (peace) settlement because he was not happy with its location."

"We are not moving," said Shlomit Hamer, a soft-spoken and hospitable mother who moved to Netzirim from the West Bank settlement of Karmi Shomron for the challenge, and the Mediterranean view.

She admits to being worried by the upsurge of Palestinian attacks against settlers but vowed violence will not force her out.

Down the road in Kfar Darom, Michal Shenbaum, who immigrated from Brooklyn a few months ago, says four families have actually moved in to the heavily-guarded settlement since the accord was signed in September.

She says she would not take money to leave her small prefabricated home which she rents for \$50 a month. Israeli

officials say privately all but a few thousand ardent settlers could be lured away by generous compensation.

"Netzirim and Kfar Darom are in many ways a test, a sort of model of what things will look like in the West Bank if we carry out any substantial redeployment," the Jaffee Centre's Alpher said.

"The Gaza Strip is going to pin down a lot of resources. I assume that because it is small it is not going to stop the process but it certainly is going to signal what the problems are likely to be in the West Bank if we do any kind of substantive withdrawal," he said.

The West Bank is dotted with dozens of Netzirim. Their fate is to be discussed after the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

If the pullout from Gaza does not break the cycle of Arab-settler violence here, the accord could be threatened.

Fearing further attacks the settlers in the rest of the strip have put up an electric fence. They are corralled in 10 enclaves in the Gush Katif block at the southern tip of the strip along the coast and the Egyptian border.

Outside this protection settlers like Michal Shenbaum are determined to hang on no matter what.

"I am not an obstacle for peace," she said referring to the U.S. description of settlements. "I am not going for this



A Palestinian boy is arrested by an Israeli policeman in occupied Jerusalem on Saturday (AFP photo)

kind of peace... if the army was withdrawn we would try to defend ourselves. We have a strong belief that God will hold us the land. Gaza is as much Israel as Jerusalem."

General Assembly passes 10 resolutions on UNRWA

AMMAN — The United Nations General Assembly, meeting in plenary session in New York on Friday adopted 10 resolutions relating to the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The main resolution, sponsored by 12 member states of the European Union, was adopted by a vote of 159 for, 0 against and two abstaining.

Noting "that the new context created by the Israeli-Palestinian accord of 13 September, 1993 will have major consequences for the activities of the agency," the General Assembly called upon UNRWA, "within the framework of strengthened cooperation with the other specialised agencies and the World Bank, to make a decisive contribution towards giving a fresh impetus to the economic and social stability of the occupied territories" of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In introducing the main resolution on UNRWA in the Fourth Committee on Wednesday,

"In introducing the main resolution on UNRWA in the Fourth Committee on Wednesday, the permanent representative of Belgium, speaking for the member states of the European Union, said: "We believe that UNRWA, given the experience of its staff, especially in the areas of health and education, will have a decisive role to play in the improvement of social and economic conditions in the occupied territories during the period of transition to Palestinian self-rule. We believe, furthermore, that the activities of the agency will remain vital throughout its area of operations."

The Belgian representative appealed to member states to increase their support for UNRWA "so that it will be in a position to play its full part in the efforts envisaged to bring peace and prosperity to the Palestine refugees in the Near East region."

UNRWA carries out its programmes of education, health, relief and social services and emergency-related assistance to over 2.8 million registered Palestine refugees under a mandate from the General Assembly which is renewed every three years. The current mandate will expire on June 30, 1996 — UNRWA press release.

We separately have been enquiring at banks whether they have any assets that fall within the terms of that resolution — when we have completed those enquiries and taken the necessary legal advice we will ourselves take steps to implement the sequestration order," the spokesman said.

The magazine said the suspects expressed "surprise" at the behaviour of one of their former colleagues, Abdul Majid Jikka, regarded as the main prosecution witness in the case, and currently living in the United States.

At the end of November the Libyan official media said Mr. Jikka was "mentally ill," and his parents had called for him to be killed.

The suspects, former employees of the national Libyan Arab Airlines Company, said they were ready to go on trial in a "third country," but they were "confident of their innocence."

They denied being "mixed up in some way" with the Lockerbie bombing, and said they had "no connection" with the Libyan intelligence services, the magazine reported. They also denied "being subjected to pressure to give

Britain starts moving Iraqi assets to U.N.

LONDON (R) — Britain said Friday it was taking steps to transfer some of the frozen Iraqi assets it holds to the United Nations — just as two of three Britons freed from Iraqi prisons flew home.

Britain's treasury published an announcement signalling the removal of Iraqi money held in accounts at the Bank of England (BoE) on the same day the three men, pardoned by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, were reunited with their families in Jordan.

A Bank of England spokesman said the timing of the announcement was a coincidence and the central bank had set wheels in motion weeks ago to sequester a small amount of the \$816 million of Iraqi money held in British-based banks.

The spokesman said, the money was destined for a fund, set up by a U.N. resolution in 1992, to meet the cost of humanitarian programmes in Iraq and of scrapping Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction as well as to feed a Gulf war reparations fund.

British authorities have said they made no deal on lifting U.N. sanctions to gain the release on Thursday of Paul Ride, 33, Michael Wainwright, 42, and Simon Dunn, 23, who had been held on charges of illegally entering Iraq.

"As you know there was no bargain involved. It doesn't alter general policy. It doesn't change the relationship, except that it removes an aggravation," Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in Brussels.

"Today's treasury order relates to money held at the Bank of England which falls within the terms of U.N. Security Council Resolution 778," the Bank of England spokesman said.

"We have separately been enquiring at banks whether they have any assets that fall within the terms of that resolution — when we have completed those enquiries and taken the necessary legal advice we will ourselves take steps to implement the sequestration order," the spokesman said.

British officials declined to give exact figures but said the Iraqi money which met those requirements was only a fraction of the \$816 million still blocked in Britain.

The total was likely to amount to only a few million dollars and would be announced within weeks, they said.

But they confirmed it was the first time Iraqi assets frozen in Britain after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait had been forcibly transferred to the U.N. escrow account, set up under the 1992 Security Council resolution.

Ayatollah Golpaygani died Thursday. He was 98.

FIS demands release of leaders as term for talks

ALGIERS (Agencies) —

Members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) have called on the government to free their jailed leaders as a condition for opening talks on Algeria's increasingly violent political crisis, a pro-front newspaper said Saturday.

Six founding members of the FIS demanded the release of Abbass Madani and the rest of the movement's jailed leaders in a communiqué they handed to the staff of the daily Al Khabar late Friday.

The six also demanded that all founding 17 members of the FIS who belong to its leadership, "including the (seven) detained leaders," be allowed to participate in the talks.

In addition to Mr. Madani, these are: Ali Belhadj, Kamel Guemazi, Abdul Kader Ounam, Nourredine Chgara, Abdul Kader Boukhamkham and Ali Jiddi.

A military court sentenced them in July 1992 to prison terms running from four to 12 years.

Al Khabar, which is sympathetic to the Muslim fundamentalists, said the communiqué was in response to General Mohammed Touati's invitation Thursday to the fundamentalists to join debates on a political transition in Algeria.

Gen. Touati, one of the three army representatives on the National Committee for Dialogue (CND), however ruled out the FIS's direct participation in a national conference.

He said the embassy had reduced its personnel but did not say how many U.S. officials remain. She said 440 American citizens are known to be living in Algeria.

In Algeria, security forces reported that 29 people were killed in political violence Wednesday.

Officials said that 11 extremists involved in the killing of two Russian military officers

had been arrested.

The eight-member CND is

charged with setting up the conference, which in turn would work out details of a two- to three-year-long political transition — starting in January — ahead of presidential and legislative elections, which would be held in 1993 at the earliest.

Gen. Touati, one of the

three army representatives on

the National Committee for

Dialogue (CND), however

ruled out the FIS's direct

participation in a national conference.

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM



On Friday, December 10, 1993, around 7:00 p.m., a fire broke out at the Main Entrance to Safeway. The in-house General Safety teams moved immediately to confine the fire and block it from spreading out, until teams from the Civil Defense Department arrived and extinguished the fire.

Meanwhile, shoppers inside Safeway were evacuated from the emergency exits. The fires were confined to the main entrance, and with God's blessings, did not spread to the upper floors.

However, due to the smoke, scores of shoppers suffered various degrees of suffocation. Teams of the Civil Defense, Royal Medical Services, Public Security, Royal Airforce and Metropolitan Amman Municipality transported those suffering from such suffocation to hospitals for treatment.

Thanks to the medical teams at these hospitals these cases of suffocation received swift and efficient treatment.

In view of the sympathy by all those fellow citizens who rushed to assist during the fire and after it was extinguished, and all those who expressed their concern, Safeway's Management extend its most profound and affectionate gratitude.

Safeway's Management was profoundly touched by this spirit of civil courage and loyalty, and will always bear in remembrance these noble gestures and sympathies.

At the same time, the Management extends its utmost gratitude to all members of staff, who devotedly and loyally moved swiftly to confine the fire and save shoppers from suffocation.

If anything, this great spirit and sense of shared interest and concern of this one whole Jordanian family, implanted and nourished by His Majesty, King Hussein Bin Talal, reflected itself in the most noble fashion. Thanks to God, the damage was confined to property with no serious harm to fellow citizens.

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For all the great efforts and assistance in evacuating suffocating shoppers and extinguishing the fire which broke out Friday, Dec. 10th, 1993

God May Bless The Efforts of Great Men Like You in The Service of This Great Country
Under The Leadership of His Majesty

KING HUSSEIN BIN TALAL

Dow Jones rises to new high of 3,740

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street blue-chip stocks rose Friday to their third record high this week, buoyed by gains in companies that would benefit from a stronger economy.

But smaller company's shares fell.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 10.89 points to close at a new high of 3,740.67, surpassing Wednesday's record of 3,734.53.

Gains in stocks in the 30-share Dow average, IBM and ALCOA among them, helped lift the blue-chip indicator. The index gained 36.60 for the week.

Volume was moderate at 24.4 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange, where declining issues led advancers by a narrow 1.097 to 950.

But, as was the case throughout the week, the broader market ignored the Dow Jones' drive to a new high.

The NASDAQ index of smaller, over-the-counter stocks lost 0.75 of a point to 760.74.

Signs of an improving economy helped lift shares of big blue-chip companies, that would profit from increased demand if economic activity improves, particularly those involved in natural resource production, analysts said.

Raw materials stocks "are the first ones in the pipeline for a picked-up economy," said Douglas Myers, vice president of equity trading at Interstate/Johnson Lane.

Among the gainers were aluminum producer ALCOA, up

7/8 to 72 3/8, and copper producer Phelps Dodge, which gained 1 1/2 to 48 3/4.

Analysts said a government report that inflation at the retail level rose a scant 0.2 per cent last month had little impact on the market. But they said strength in the economy raised some concerns for investors.

"The market seems to have its fingers crossed concerning whether the (Federal Reserve) will view this strengthening in the economy as a reason to begin to tighten the monetary screws a little bit," said Jack Shaughnessy, director of research at Advest.

He said he did not think that was the case, noting that the recent drop in oil prices to five-year lows has helped keep a lid on inflation.

Bob Stovall, head of Stovall/21 Advisers, said investors were also worried by high stock valuations and the divergence between the Dow and other indexes.

"There's a lot of apprehension that the market is riding for a fall," he said. Traders said a continued stream of bad news from the technology companies added strain to the NASDAQ over-the-counter market.

Among the big losers Intel slid 1 3/4 to 56 1/4.

The Standard Poor's composite index of 500 stocks fell 0.25 of a point to 463.93. The American Stock Exchange index, lost 1.03 to 406.28.

The NYSE composite index of all listed common stocks fell 0.07 to 256.93. The average share was down one cent.

Greece delighted shipping is out of world trade talks

BRUSSELS (R) — Greece said Saturday it was delighted regulation and liberalisation of maritime shipping had been dropped from negotiations on world trade.

"Shipping is now completely out of the trade round. This is a great success for us. We want to keep the status quo," Greek Deputy National Economy Minister Yannos Papantoniou said at a European Community (EC) summit in Brussels.

EC trade negotiators in Geneva were more cautious, saying that the storm over shipping had to pull its shipping offer from the table to counter American moves in maritime trade.

In the last few days before a Dec. 15 deadline for sealing a global deal among 115 nations, the United States and the Community have clashed over how far they would go towards opening their maritime shipping markets.

Some trade negotiators have suggested that the storm over shipping could wreck a vast accord covering a full range of services, which include everything from the audio-visual market to banking.

EC officials have charged in recent days that Washington reneged on an offer to open its maritime shipping sector. They said on reading the fine print of an American offer they found only about 0.8 per cent of their market would be opened to competition.

The shipping sector is crucial to many countries and the offer helped EC and U.S. negotiators to come within sight of complete agreement on bilateral trade issues in Brussels earlier this week.

In Geneva, chief negotiator John Schmidt reacted angrily to the EC accusations on shipping, and to statements by some EC leaders at the Brussels summit that maritime trade had been kicked out of the trade round.

He denied the United States had backtracked on its maritime offers and suggested some EC states were manoeuvring to get the issue off the negotiating table.

"It could be the beginning of a very troubling time," said U.S. deputy assistant trade representative for services, Richard Self.

Uganda's tea industry recovers

KAMPALA (R) — Uganda's tea industry, weakened by years of political unrest and civil war, is steadily recovering, industry officials have said. Output is expected to rise to 12 million kilogrammes this year, up from 9.4 million last year, and 1.5 million in 1981. They told Reuters. Up to nine million kilogrammes of this will be exported and officials expect the East Africa country to earn up to \$9.2 million after less than \$1 million in 1981. To try to boost output, the government last year abolished the state export monopoly.

Pakistan to compensate victims of financial scam

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan is to compensate thousands of people who lost millions of dollars in a financial scam involving cooperative finance companies. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has announced.

In a nationwide broadcast, Mrs. Bhutto said she had ordered the arrest of those responsible and for them to be tried by special courts.

She said the "biggest financial fraud" in Pakistan's history had affected 260,000 people, most of whom lost their life savings.

The scandal involved 100 private cooperative finance societies which attracted more than \$400 million in deposits by offering high interest rates, but then could not meet with demands.

The scam occurred during the period when Nawaz Sharif was prime minister and Mrs. Bhutto said: "past rulers were equally involved in the crime."

The government will provide some compensation and more will come from the liquidation of the cooperatives' assets, most of which operated in the populous Punjab province.

Reports have said the Punjab government's registrar of cooperative societies had asked the banks to freeze the accounts of more than 90 former officials.

London's U.S. banks in Christmas bonus bonanza

LONDON (R) — American banks in London are drawing gasps in the financial community over the fat bonuses they pay their staff, with one report Saturday saying at least 250 employees will get \$1 million this Christmas.

U.S. investment bank Goldman Sachs raised eyebrows this week when it emerged it had made pre-tax profits this year of \$2.6 billion (\$3.9 billion) and would reward 100 of its London staff with \$1 million (\$1.5 million) bonuses.

The Daily Telegraph said Saturday at least 250 staff from Goldman Sachs, Salomon Brothers, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, Kidder Peabody and Bankers Trust would get more than \$1 million in bonuses. Thousands would receive more than \$100,000.

"Essentially the traders take tiny slices off huge sums," the Daily Telegraph said in its city comment page. "When trading picks up, then even the thinnest slices of salami soon add up to quite a sausage."

Neither the banks nor the individuals involved would confirm or deny salaries or bonuses, but, in the hothouse world of the financial district called The City, word has spread fast of the megabonuses.

The multi-digit bonuses, recalling the booming 1980s when Porsche-driving traders filled wine bars in The City, have drawn some indignation, and banks have been quick to point out they are also raising more money for charity this year.

The new breed of highly-paid London-based traders on the international markets, using bonds and financial instruments called derivatives, can make fortunes for the American banks that employ them but have to work punishing hours.

Dutch move strategic oil stock to German salt caves

AMSTERDAM (R) — The Netherlands is moving more than a third of its strategic oil reserve from the Rotterdam area to underground salt caves in Germany to cut costs.

A first shipment of 660,000 barrels of Brent crude was pumped into caves one kilometre below Etzel in northern Germany on Dec. 5.

Hendrik-Jan Beverdam, managing director of Cova, the Dutch government-owned stockpile agency, said in an interview Friday. Up to 5.25 million of Cova's 13 million barrels of strategic oil will be sent there by 1996, he said.

It is the first time Dutch strategic oil has been stored outside the Netherlands.

Oil analysts said they were unaware of any other country keeping a strategic oil reserve abroad.

Strategic oil reserves are emergency stockpiles for use in national crises if normal oil supplies are cut off and by their nature need to be kept within easy reach and in safe hands, they said.

"Storage in German caves is very attractive on cost," said Mr. Beverdam.

He declined to give price comparisons but oil industry sources said it currently costs oil companies around 50 Dutch cents (\$0.26) a barrel per month to store crude in Rotterdam.

Although Cova pays less than commercial rates, German underground storage could be as little as half the cost of conventional sea-level tanks, the industry sources said.

"It's much cheaper to store oil there than in the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp (ARA) region," said Dutch oil consultant Pieter Kuijs.

Mr. Beverdam said availability of oil storage space was also limited in the Netherlands.

"We have had a bilateral agreement with Germany and Belgium for several years allowing us to use each other's storage. But Belgian storage facilities are not a real option because they are limited and expensive," he explained.

These are the "yabloko" bloc of economist Grigory Yavlinsky, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord of Deputy Prime Ministers Sergei Shakhs and Alexander Shokhin and the Russian Movement for Democratic reforms of St. Petersburg mayor Anatoly Sobchak.

The caves, which lie close to Germany's northwestern port of Wilhelmshaven and near the Dutch border, are operated by German state oil reserve company NWO.

The caves already contain part of Germany's strategic oil stockpile and are connected by pipeline to the country's main refining area on the Ruhr.

Mr. Beverdam said the salt caves were ideal for storing oil because they were convenient, environmentally-friendly and leak-proof.

"In the U.S., almost all SPR (strategic petroleum reserve) is stored in salt caverns and a major part of the German Stockpile is also held in them," he said.

China plans law to stem hemorrhaging state assets

BEIJING (R) — China, watching billions of dollars in state assets slip illicitly into private pockets through economic reforms, is drafting a law to boost supervision of state companies as they revamp business operations.

The regulation stipulates that property in industrial enterprises belongs to the state, the official Xinhua News Agency has said.

It said the rules emphasise that the government's supervisory role in reorganising assets, "stringent examinations should be completed before approval when transferring

them to individuals, private enterprises or foreign investors."

Xinhua said China loses more than 30 billion yuan (\$5.2 billion) annually as state assets are written over to individuals, intentionally undervalued before sale to investors or simply taken over by new management groups.

Previous official estimates have said China could be losing an average of 100 million yuan (\$17.5 million) each day, with accumulated losses over the past 13 years exceeding 500 billion yuan (\$87 billion).

Economic reforms have thrust many state companies onto the market, and top managers often adapt quickly to capitalist-style corporate perks despite the fact they remain officially public servants.

Xinhua said the new law was part of a wider campaign by the government to keep control of its assets despite the dismantling of the old socialist-style command economy.

It said Beijing's state asset administration next year would send supervisors to 1,000 large and medium-sized state firms to "supervise property management."

New Russian government faces uphill economic task

MOSCOW (R) — Western bankers and economists feel reasonably confident that a reform-minded coalition government can be formed after Sunday's parliamentary elections, but it will face a huge task rescuing the economy.

Russia's first post-Soviet polls offer voters a rich choice of parties ranging from extreme nationalists to communists, but few come with a package of economic policies and many have only a small number of experienced politicians and economists.

The most radical economic programme belongs to Russia's choice, led by First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, which promises a bitter dose of austerity to lower inflation, stabilise the rouble and speed up state sell-offs.

Mr. Gaidar and his two main running mates — Finance Minister Boris Yeltsin and Privatisation Minister Anatoly Chubais — have found it hard to preach their free-market gospel in the run-up to elections.

Their radicalism is also criticised by rival reformers, who see supply-side measures, and not tight money, as the key element of a successful financial policy.

These are the "yabloko" bloc of economist Grigory Yavlinsky, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord of Deputy Prime Ministers Sergei Shakhs and Alexander Shokhin and the Russian Movement for Democratic reforms of St. Petersburg mayor Anatoly Sobchak.

The caves already contain part of Germany's strategic oil stockpile and are connected by pipeline to the country's main refining area on the Ruhr.

Mr. Yavlinsky, best known for a "500 day" reform plan proposed to ex-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev but never implemented, criticises Mr. Gaidar's economic prescriptions as painful.

He and other reformers are against "shock therapy." "We're ready to sacrifice the speed of reforms to peace. The social price of reforms is at its peak," said economist Alexander Tsyanov of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord.

But most of the parties agree on the need to speed up the

transition to a market economy.

Even the most Soviet-style parties contesting the elections have modified their economic platforms to fit the free market, although they still oppose privatisation.

The Communist Party, which wants Russia to turn the clock back to a time when bread was cheap and everyone had a job, has left scope for some privatisation in its programme.

"We will have a centre-right coalition government, but things may not be as radical as promised by Gaidar and Yeltsin," said a senior Western banker.

Whatever the result of the polls, the new government will face an uphill task in dealing with the ailing economy.

The immediate problem of the reformers, if they become government, will be the high expectations they have aroused.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 12, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

carry through with it even though it may momentarily interfere with some family activities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Lots of morning communications can be productive of what you want the most and later you can combine these in improving the operations you have during the daytime.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) First get whatever obligations you have agreed to do with others out of the way, then you can get into a plan that will increase your income.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You find your attachment has some unusual ideas for your joint pleasures and although they may seem way out, are worth looking into carefully.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have some starting event occur which necessitates a change in some plans already decided upon but don't let over but go along with them.

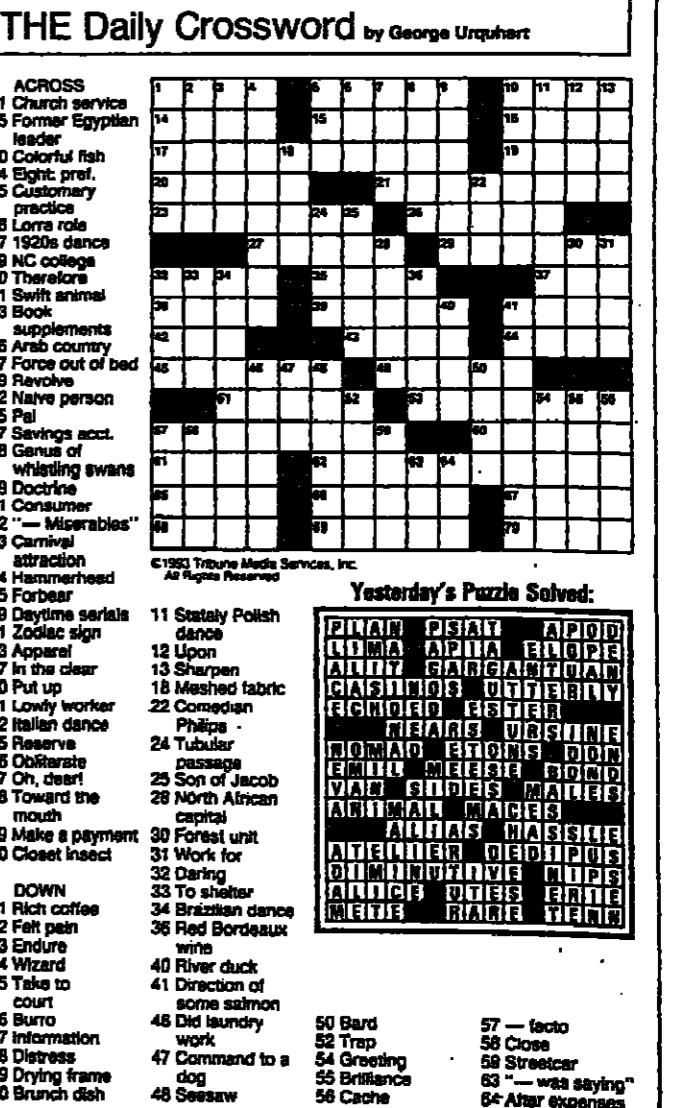
MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be more alert to the various means and methods by which you can improve the standard of your every day occupations and you make headway.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have so many good ideas for enjoying yourself and your chosen companions in the future that you need to jot them down to keep them in mind.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well what you want in the outside world and

THE Daily Crossword

by George Willard



Economy

Fewer Japanese believe in jobs for life — poll

TOKYO (R) — Younger workers have begun to reject lifetime employment, a practice that contributed to large Japanese corporations' phenomenal success after World War II according to a survey published Saturday.

As much as a third of 20,000 male university graduates who responded to the survey said they had quit their original jobs and moved to others within their first 10 years of employment.

The survey, conducted by a government labour policy think tank, said 80 per cent of female respondents have switched jobs.

Among the reasons given were being forced to work long hours, being assigned boring tasks, disapproving of management style or being badly paid.

"The younger generation is gradually abandoning the concept of lifetime employment," concluded the study by the Japan Labour Research Organisation, an arm of the labour ministry, in the late 1980s, it added.

"Lifetime employment is an illusion," economist Noboru Satake told the daily Asahi Shimbun, commenting on the study. "There is a huge gap between image and reality when newcomers are faced with harsh treatment in Japanese companies, such as lack of overtime pay or the inability to take holidays," he said.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET						
MONTHLY BANK LISTING OF OPENING AND CLOSING PRICES						
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 11/12/1993						
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABRA BANK	414,870	186.000	186.000	186.000	186.000	186.000
ABRAHAT NATIONAL BANK	29,573	9.200	9.200	9.200	9.200	9.200
BANK OF JORDAN	17,773	1.120	1.120	1.120	1.120	1.120
INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT BANK	17,859	1.920	1.920	1.920	1.920	1.920
THE INVESTMENT BANK	18,163	1.920	1.920	1.920	1.920	1.920
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	26,615	3.010	2.990	2.980	3.010	2.990
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1,185	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
JORDAN NATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK	2,212	4.400	4.400	4.400	4.400	4.400
BUSINESS BANK	72,480	4.320	4.400	4.400	4.320	4.400
ABRAHAT BANK	1,950	8.500	8.500	8.500	8.500	8.500
BEST BANK INVESTMENT BANK	163,995	1.840	1.840	1.840	1.840	1.840
ABRAHAT BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,950	4.400	4.400	4.400	4.400	4.400
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	14,185	2.710	2.880	2.880	2.710	2.880
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	4,100	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	66,724	2.550	2.540	2.540	2.550	2.540
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	7,848	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	17,020	3.840	3.950	3.950	3.840	3.950
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMP	3,044	1.850	1.870	1.870	1.850	1.870
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,950	4.400	4.400	4.400	4.400	4.400
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING AD-EDITOR	5,450	12.800	13.000	13.000	12.800	13.000
UNITED NATIONS STAFF & CONFERENCE HOTEL	70,215	2.120	2.110	2.110	2.120	2.110
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	42,524	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	340	1.740	1.700	1.700	1.740	1.700
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	108,950	2.550	2.500	2.500	2.550	2.500
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	9,323	7.380	7.350	7.350	7.380	7.350
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	9,990	3.550	3.550	3.550	3.550	3.550
THE JORDAN PETRO MANUFACTURING	6,182	3.680	3.680	3.680	3.680	3.680
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	15,650	20.300	21.300	21.300	20.300	21.300
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	114,495	2.820	2.820	2.820	2.820	2.820
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	720	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	111,950	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	43,524	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	8,920	2.550	2.540	2.540	2.550	2.540
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	27,929	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	3,548	1.140	1.140	1.140	1.140	1.140
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	122,568	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
ABRAHAT BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	132,902	2.120	2.000	2.000	2.120	2.000
GRAND TOTAL	2,399,692					
% OF TRADED SHARES IN FINANCIAL MARKET						
TRADED VOLUME IN THE FINANCIAL MARKET						

Financial Jordan Times
Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 9/12/93	New York Close Date 10/12/93
Sterling Pound	1.4930	1.4945
Deutsche Mark	1.7033	1.6973
Swiss Franc	1.4650	1.4540
French Franc	5.8388	5.8110
Japanese Yen	108.66	109.21
European Currency Unit	1.1309**	1.1373

* USD Per STG

** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Conversion Interest Rates Date: 10/12/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.21	3.21	3.37	3.56
Sterling Pound	5.50	5.25	5.06	5.00
Deutsche Mark	6.18	5.88	5.50	5.12
Swiss Franc	4.25	3.93	3.78	3.62
French Franc	6.68	6.38	6.00	5.43
Japanese Yen	2.34	2.00	1.87	1.81
European Currency Unit	6.62	6.25	6.00	5.50

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Metals Dates: 10/12/1993

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*
Gold	383.45	7.45	Silver	5.05	0.114

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Dates: 11/12/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7000	0.7050
Sterling Pound	1.0450	1.0502
Deutsche Mark	0.4118	0.4139
Swiss Franc	0.4809	0.4833
French Franc	0.1205	0.1209
Japanese Yen	0.6404	0.6436
Dutch Guilder	0.3681	0.3699
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0419	0.0421
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

** Per 100

Other Exchanges Dates: 11/12/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer

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General alert sounded as Sarajevo is shelled

SARAJEVO (R) — Sirens sounded a general alert in Sarajevo Saturday as besieging Bosnian Serbs pounded the Bosnian capital with tank, artillery and mortar fire.

U.N. peacekeepers said the city had been hit by 250 rounds since Friday in Serb retaliation for an attack on the suburb of Lukavica where the Bosnian Serb army has its headquarters.

"The (Muslim-led) Bosnian army assaulted with shelling Lukavica yesterday and I suspect that was part of the reason for the large number coming back," said Bill Aikman, spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

At least one Bosnian shell hit the Serb barracks Saturday morning while U.N. military observers were in the buildings but no casualties were reported.

Sarajevo radio said at least two civilians had been wounded in the city by Serb return fire.

The radio said the Muslim-held town of Zavodovici, Olovno and Maglaj in central Bosnia and Gorazde in eastern Bosnia had been heavily shelled during the past 24 hours.

U.N. spokesman said Serbs were continuing to hamper convoy relief operations for almost three million civilians in this winter.

"I am not sure whether it is isolated commanders in the field doing their own thing or a coordinated effort to pinprick the humanitarian effort to death," Ray Wilkinson for the UNHCR said.

A senior UNPROFOR officer was due to meet the Bosnian Serb army command Sunday to try to unblock stranded convoys.

Peace envoys David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg have

called a fresh round of talks between the warring sides in Geneva on Dec. 21 to try to reach agreement on plans to divide Bosnia into three ethnic states.

European Community foreign ministers are also expected to meet Muslim, Croat and Serb leaders on the eve of the talks, it was announced in Brussels.

The meetings will take place immediately after parliamentary elections in Serbia.

The Geneva talks would bring together President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia to discuss the key issues of a peace settlement to the 20-month civil war.

They include Muslim demands for three to four per cent more land seized by the Serb and for access to the Adriatic Sea for their future territory, which would otherwise be landlocked.

In Belgrade, the foreign minister of the self-styled Bosnian Serb Republic, Aleksa Buha, was quoted by Tanjug news agency as saying a European Community plan for the Serbs to relinquish a little more territory in exchange for the gradual lifting of sanctions on Serbia had set the peace talks back to square one.

Mr. Buha said the Muslims were avoiding a definitive solution for the former Yugoslav republic in the hope they would eventually take over the whole territory.

For their part the Bosnian Foreign Ministry Thursday rejected an invitation to new peace talks. That invitation was for a meeting in Salonika, this Sunday, which was quickly postponed after preliminary soundings with Serbian leaders in Belgrade failed to make it.

The Bosnians complained in a letter to Lord Owen and Mr. Stoltenberg that as there had been no progress in Geneva on territorial concessions or sea access, they saw no point in a new round.

European Community (EC) leaders are ready to strengthen sanctions against the Serbs unless they make further concessions for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, according to a draft statement Saturday.

The draft, which awaited approval by the EC summit in Brussels, also invited the warring Bosnian parties to Brussels on Dec. 22 in a new bid to unblock talks on ending the 20-month-old conflict.

The EC leaders said "enormous obstacles" remained in the Geneva peace talks and singled out the separatist Serbs for refusing to make additional territorial concessions to the Muslim-led government.

It said the Muslims should have access to the Adriatic Sea after the ethnic division of Bosnia, and their claim a third of the land — up from 30 per cent currently on offer — was legitimate.

Any division of Sarajevo must include U.N. guarantees of free movement of the city's people, the draft said.

The 12-member EC has said it was ready to progressively lift sanctions imposed on the Serbs' sponsors in Serbia and Montenegro if they made a genuine effort at peace in Bosnia and the Serb-held Krajina region of Croatia.

But the draft summit declaration warned that if no such moves were made the EC would seek to tighten application of the current economic embargo and even strengthen it.



U.S. writer Toni Morrison is congratulated by Swedish King Carl Gustav after she received the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature during the awarding ceremony in Stockholm (AFP photo)

Nobel laureates honoured in Sweden and Norway

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Having revolutionised their fields — by unlocking genetic secrets, discovering a new kind of star, explaining history or writing poetic novels about race — the 1993 Nobel Prize winners took their bows.

The discovery in 1977 that human genes were as complex as a mosaic earned the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for Richard J. Roberts, 50, of Derby, England and Phillip A. Sharp, 49, of Falmouth, Kentucky.

The nine laureates in literature, medicine, physics, chemistry and economics gathered at Stockholm's Concert House to receive the 6.7 million kronor (\$790,000) prizes and gold medals from King Carl XVI Gustaf.

Earlier, Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk of South Africa received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, where they spoke about overcoming years of violence and suspicion to bring the hope of peace and democracy to their country.

"It was not easy for the supporters of Mr. Mandela, or mine, to relinquish the ideals they had cherished for many decades. But we did it," Mr. de Klerk said in his lecture. "And because we did it, there is hope."

Mr. Mandela interpreted the prize as a call from the world to continue work toward a non-racial democracy in South Africa, despite daily bloodshed.

By focusing on the black experience in the United States, novelist Toni Morrison has given the Afro-American people their history back, piece by piece," Swedish Academy Secretary Sture Allen said in prepared remarks introducing the first black American winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

"She regards the African presence in her country as a vital but unarticulated prerequisite for the fulfilment of the American dream," said Mr. Allen. "Similarly, she sees witness in literature as having blackness as its constant companion, the racial other as its shadow."

"Smith developed a general method for producing mutations in a gene... at specific positions," said Mr. Branden. The results: New antibodies that kill cancer cells, and plants engineered to produce proteins rich in amino acids, like meat.

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"We reminded them that we want full IAEA inspections of their nuclear sites and a resumption of the dialogue with South Korea," Ms. Myers said. "We've made our response clear to them. And so it is now with them."

"We have some hope for the continuing discussions," he said Friday. "If you've asked me, have I given up on the discussions, the answer is no. We're aggressively pursuing them."

"Pyongyang had warned it would break off talks with the United States if Washington did not accept a proposal it put forward last week that continued to bar international access to two critical nuclear facilities."

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Rabin plans return to 1967 borders—report

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli government is secretly drafting plans for a return to the 1967 borders and the establishment of a Palestinian state, proposals that for the first time are being considered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Jerusalem Post has reported.

The plans deal only with the West Bank and Gaza, and not the Golan Heights, the Post said. Senior government sources, disputing Rabin's insistence that he refuses to consider these issues until at least 1996, say the government has drafted numerous plans for a withdrawal which would include the Jordan Valley, Jerusalem not included in the plan and only minor changes in the 1967 border would be made, The Post said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin is coordinating these plans with the approval of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, according to sources quoted by the Post.

The Post said:

Both men want the plans implemented before the right-wing opposition can foil them. Peres and Beilin are urging that the negotiations for a permanent settlement begin after the establishment of a Palestinian council on self-rule, scheduled for July.

A three-month investigation by The Jerusalem Post has revealed that Rabin has not ruled out these plans. Sources close to the prime minister say Rabin has acknowledged the inevitability of a Palestinian state, and his mission is to ensure that it will not harm the Jewish state.

The phrase he uses is that the level of Palestinian independence is dependent on the level of security for Israel," a

Rabin source says.

Through interviews with scores of senior Israeli, U.S. and PLO officials, parliamentarians, negotiators and diplomats, The Post has learned of the government's conceptions, which have already been shown to several senior ministers.

The proposals include the following:

— The government is ready to withdraw from nearly all of the West Bank and Gaza. The exceptions are several Jewish neighbourhoods in Jerusalem and minor border changes in the West Bank. Areas the Labour Party declared it would keep under any future settlement, are not to be retained.

— The government is ready to permit the establishment of a Palestinian state.

— Senior ministers have begun secret talks with PLO representatives on the future of Jerusalem.

— The government is ready to dismantle some settlements and raise money from the U.S. to buy out many of the 130,000 settlers in the territories. The price for this is estimated by the foreign ministry at \$10 billion.

The prime minister has tried to shroud the issue in secrecy, government sources say. He has refused to answer questions on the permanent settlement in the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee, which until this year, regularly discussed such sensitive information.

Parliamentary sources say Rabin has even prohibited the head of the General Security Service from presenting his agency's plans for 1994 to the committee's intelligence subcommittee, fearing parlia-

mentarians would learn what the government has in mind for West Bank and Gaza.

During the past few weeks, several ministers have seen the Beilin-Peres proposals. Although these ministers all support some form of territorial compromise in West Bank and Gaza, they were stunned by the plans for a full withdrawal.

"We (deputies) promise Your Majesty that the House will carry out its legislative powers in neutrality and objectivity," Mr. Masri said.

The speaker was replying to a message King Hussein sent to the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday in which the King urged parliamentarians to seek objectivity, truth and credibility in all the plans for a full withdrawal.

"When Peres spoke to me about what he had in mind, I nearly fell off my chair," a senior minister said.

At the same time, Rabin has, approved the establishment of a Labour Party committee that will outline government alternatives for a permanent settlement with the Palestinians.

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Masri pledges neutrality and objectivity in House's approach

AMMAN (Petra) — Parliament will uphold the principle of applying the spirit and letter of the Constitution in its dealings with the government, Lower House Speaker Taber Al Masri said in a letter addressed to His Majesty King Hussein Saturday.

"We (deputies) promise Your Majesty that the House will carry out its legislative powers in neutrality and objectivity," Mr. Masri said.

The speaker was replying to a message King Hussein sent to the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday in which the King urged parliamentarians to seek objectivity, truth and credibility in all the plans for a full withdrawal.

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Taber Al Masri

Mr. Masri pledged, in the name of all the deputies, that Parliament will cooperate with the executive authority on the basis of respecting the Constitution.

"We are but one team... this homeland is for everyone, and serving it and serving the Hashemite throne are our main objectives," he said.

Mr. Masri also pledged to translate the King's words into action by renewing the Jordanian political discourse that is based on the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

"Al Hussein's message is our message... his objectives are our goals..." Mr. Masri concluded.

Christopher heads home saying better Arab-Israeli ties in offing

RABAT (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Morocco Saturday bound for Washington at the end of his eight-day peace mission to the Middle East.

Mr. Christopher visited Syria and Israel twice, Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco.

He helped broker talks due to take place between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Sunday, a day before Israeli troops are scheduled to start withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho. Mr. Christopher also secured a commitment by Syria to return to peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Christopher held talks with King Hassan II of Morocco about the peace process, and said both agreed there was a need to create a climate of confidence in order to establish a comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arabs.

In Damascus Thursday, Mr. Christopher announced that Syria and Israel would return to the negotiating table in January or February after having

ing suspended talks in September.

He also announced a summit next month in Geneva between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to give the Israeli-Syrian talks a boost.

Mr. Christopher said one of his goals was to encourage all parties to seek more normal relations between Israel and Arab states.

"I leave here with a feeling that there will be developments in this area in that direction," he said at a news conference.

Mr. Christopher said the question of diplomatic recognition between Morocco and Israel was not addressed in the meeting.

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